



SAN FRANCISCO HISTORY CENTER

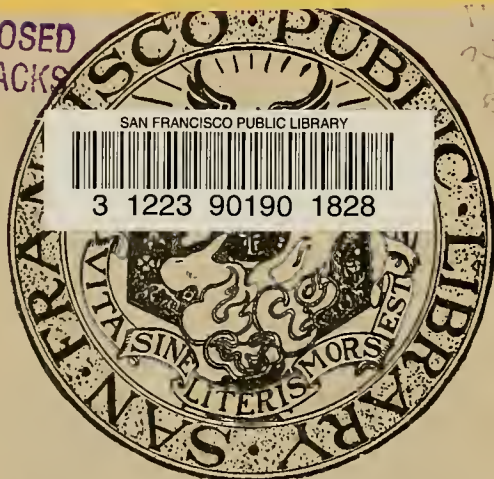


San Francisco Public Library

REFERENCE BOOK

Not to be taken from the Library

CLOSED
STACKS



SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 1223 90190 1828

BOOK No.

2

ACCESSION

352.9 Sa52h

445719

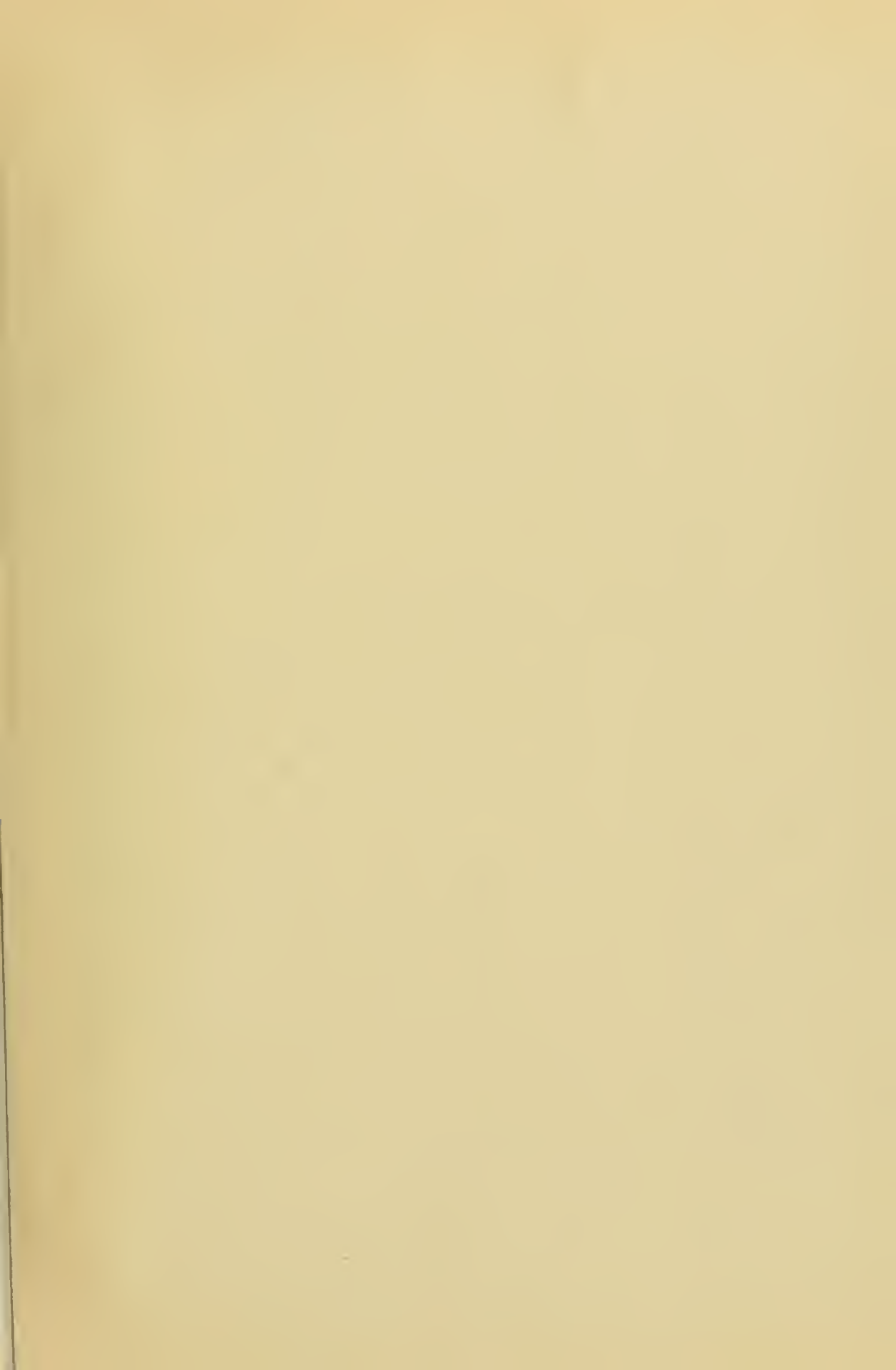
NOT TO BE TAKEN FROM THE LIBRARY

3427-5M-4-37

DOCUMENTS DEPT.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2012 with funding from
California State Library Califa/LSTA Grant



ANNUAL REPORT

1928 »« 1929

AND

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES



PLAYGROUND COMMISSION

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA

* 542.9

Sa 5211 2

415719



"Children have an inalienable right to constructive play—and that is the product of the playgrounds."—Herbert Hoover.



HON. JAMES ROLPH, JR.
Mayor of San Francisco

The Playground Commission takes great pleasure in dedicating this book to Hon. James Rolph, Jr., Mayor of the City and County of San Francisco, in appreciation of his great interest, whole-hearted support, and cooperation, demonstrated at all times for the Playground and Recreation Movement of this city.

PLAYGROUND COMMISSION OF SAN FRANCISCO

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1929
AND
REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES



THE BOOK

» »

	Page
Frontispiece.....	1
Dedication.....	3
Statement by the Commission.....	8
The Commission.....	9
Tribute to Rev. D. O. Crowley.....	11
ANNUAL REPORT.....	13
History of Playground Department.....	17
Organization Chart.....	18
Organization and Activities.....	19
Play Directors' Examination.....	23
Where 37 Varieties Play.....	24
Southside Playground (verse).....	25
Total 3,891,542 Play Periods.....	27
Play Directors' Course.....	27
Dramatics—Story Play.....	28
Music Department.....	30
An Appreciation.....	31
The Lindy League.....	33
Handicraft.....	34
Athletic Activities.....	35
Playgrounds a Moral Force.....	36
Play in Safety.....	36
Tennis is Popular.....	37
At the Swimming-Pools.....	38
Playground Exhibits.....	40
Adult Recreation.....	40
Cooperative Use of Facilities and Program.....	42
Adult Baseball.....	43
A Letter of Commendation.....	44
Our Mountain Camp.....	45
Construction and Maintenance.....	49
Construction and Maintenance Activities.....	51
Playgrounds, locations of.....	52
Playground and Camp Attendance.....	54
Unit of Attendance and Cost of Athletic Supplies.....	55
Playground Supplies.....	56
Interpreting the Charts.....	56
Accounts for Fiscal Year 1928-1929.....	64
Municipal Recreation Facilities.....	65

SAN FRANCISCO'S CITY HALL



"San Francisco has only one drawback—'Tis hard to leave."—Rudyard Kipling.

Moulm photo.

To the Citizens of San Francisco:

The problem of providing sufficient recreational facilities for all the people of San Francisco is a challenge to each succeeding Playground Commission: first, because of the City's limited area, not only in acreage but by its many high hills, its everlasting glory but a Commission's despair.

The Department is also limited as to income by the Charter and finds it an impossibility, with the tax moneys allowed, to buy large, level tracts of land necessary in the thickly populated districts and at the same time to maintain the existing Playgrounds efficiently.

We, who are administering the affairs of the Playground Commission, have been entrusted with a great responsibility and a solemn duty—the duty of providing helpful playtime activities for the 100,000 children, whose lives and characters are in the process of being formed, and also of providing suitable recreational opportunities for adults during their leisure time.

The following graphic report shows what has been accomplished through the years and what is being done at the present time, but it falls far short of what the present Playground Commission conceives as the ideal for San Francisco.

The citizens of San Francisco sensitive to this important social need should recognize and provide for the following:

1. The acquisition of additional play-areas, by means of a bond issue or gift, in order to approximate the minimum space of 150 square feet per child recommended by recreational authorities. These new areas should include large playgrounds in new residential districts.
2. The acquisition of an area for baseball development, of sufficient size to meet the needs of the large number of industrial teams now finding it necessary to seek diamonds outside of San Francisco.
3. The construction of as many additional tennis courts as space will allow.
4. The enclosing of the two existing playground swimming-pools for the purpose of operating them for twelve months instead of only seven months of the year. Also the construction of at least two more centrally located swimming-pools.
5. The development of a year-round camp in the country as accessible to the city as possible.

Every dollar invested by the Community in this work, and every creative effort put forth on our part, becomes a paying investment, rendering dividends beyond computation in a useful, happy, contented people.

Respectfully,

THE PLAYGROUND COMMISSION.



JAMES D. PHELAN
President of the Playground Commission

PLAYGROUND COMMISSION

JAMES D. PHELAN,
President

ROSALIE M. STERN
Vice-President

ALICIA MOSGROVE
CONSTANT J. AUGER
GEORGE HEARST
JOHN McLAREN
DANIEL C. MURPHY



EXECUTIVE STAFF PLAYGROUND COMMISSION

JOSEPHINE DOWS RANDALL, Superintendent.
VEDA B. YOUNG, Secretary.
HOMER B. PACK, Supervisor of Construction and Maintenance.
RAYMOND KIMBELL, Supervisor of Playgrounds and Community Centers.
GEORGE S. HARMAN, Supervisor of Research and Statistics.
HESTER PROCTOR, Supervisor of Dramatics and Folk Dancing.
MARIE V. FOSTER, Supervisor of Music.
HELEN WOLLANG, Supervisor of Swimming.
NORMAN CENTER, Camp Manager.
RALPH McILWAINE, Supervisor of Special Activities.



REV. D. O. CROWLEY

President of San Francisco Playground Commission, 1912-1927

REVEREND D. O. CROWLEY

THE Playground Commission and the City of San Francisco suffered a deep loss in the death of Father D. O. Crowley on February 2, 1928. At the age of 75, this noted priest, beloved and honored by the whole community, passed away. His career was an extremely active and helpful one, marked with inspiration and guiding insight, his name symbolic of beneficence in civic life, and benevolence and fulfillment in personal endeavor.

For sixteen years Father Crowley was president of the Playground Commission and labored hard in the playground movement of our city.

Mayor James Rolph, Jr., said of him: "Because of our lifelong friendship I was so fortunate as to secure his acceptance of the presidency of the San Francisco Playground Commission. He was one of my first appointments when I became mayor sixteen years ago. Through his wise guidance our playground system has taken its place with the best in the land and it was only through ill health that Father Crowley recently relinquished his post to his friend and successor, former United States Senator James D. Phelan."

Father Crowley's work as head of the Youths' Directory, which was founded forty-three years ago, will live on, and, as Archbishop Edward J. Hanna has said, "the thousands of boys, whom he trained, whom he raised to knowledge and power, will rise to call him blessed."

As a tribute to this great character, nationally and internationally admired and revered, all creeds paid final honor to his memory at Solemn Requiem High Mass in St. Mary's Cathedral. Archbishop Hanna, who delivered the eulogy, said of him: "A great and noble soul has passed, a faithful, devoted and holy priest, who loved children and loved his fellow men."

The Playground Commission, wishing to expressly honor the memory of Rev. D. O. Crowley, named one of its foremost playgrounds the "Father Crowley Playground." They selected the former Southside Playground, which was the first public playground in San Francisco operated under the supervision of the Playground Commission, and which was deemed the worthiest to bear the name of a beloved leader, a great humanitarian and devoted, loyal San Franciscan.

The Father Crowley Playground is an enduring and fitting monument to the memory of Rev. D. O. Crowley.



Toy symphony band in uniform on Father Crowley Playground

City and County of San Francisco
PLAYGROUND COMMISSION

June 30, 1929.

To His Honor, James Rolph, Jr.,
Mayor, City and County of San Francisco,
City Hall, San Francisco.

Dear Mayor Rolph:

In accordance with Article XVI, Section Nine, of the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco, the report of the Playground Commission for the fiscal year 1928-29 is forwarded herewith.

Very truly yours,

PLAYGROUND COMMISSION

JAMES D. PHELAN, President.

ROSALIE M. STERN, Vice-President.

ALICIA MOSGROVE

CONSTANT J. AUGER

GEORGE HEARST

JOHN McLAREN

DANIEL C. MURPHY

JOSEPHINE DOWS RANDALL, Superintendent

VEDA B. YOUNG, Secretary

ANNUAL REPORT 1928-1929

PLAYGROUND COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

"This civilization is not going to depend so much on what we do when we work as on what we do in our time off."—Herbert Hoover.

The Playground Commission realizes the import of this statement and is endeavoring to fulfill the mission of providing sufficient enjoyable and health-giving leisure-time activities for all the people of San Francisco.

FACILITIES AND STANDARDS IMPROVED

The Department is increasing its facilities each month, thereby providing additional types of recreation for the purpose of interesting all groups and all ages. The standard of playground supervision has been raised by requiring trained playground workers, giving a six-weeks' training course for all playground directors, and by holding an examination for all playground director applicants.

MAXIMUM APPROPRIATION

The Board of Supervisors allowed the maximum appropriation to the Department this year, thereby making it possible to provide greater health and happiness for the citizens of San Francisco to a very appreciable degree.

BOND ISSUE

For years the Playground Commission has realized the imperative need for increased playground and recreational facilities for San Francisco and had placed on the November ballot a \$3,100,000 bond issue. Although the bonds did not carry, as re-



San Francisco from Twin Peaks—The City Beautiful

Moulin copyright photo.

quired, by two-thirds' vote, the citizens of San Francisco came to a fuller realization of the need for more play-arcas and 75,315 voted in favor of the purchase and improvement of playground sites. A clear majority voted for the bond issue.

PERSONNEL

The Department has increased its personnel, and there are now in the various departments, the following:

Administrative and Executive Department.....	17
Directors on the playgrounds, regular, Sunday and emergency.....	112
Laborers, caretakers, gardeners and skilled mechanics.....	54
Total number of employees.....	183

DEVELOPMENTS

During the past year additional property was purchased for playground purposes, as follows:

1. Land adjoining Spring Valley Playground, approximately .44 of an acre, costing \$42,000.
2. First payment of \$28,000 on the 9.59 acres purchased in St. Mary's Park was made—total land cost \$87,500 to be paid for over three-year period.
3. Additional property in Potrero Hill site, which is 9.55 acres in size, was purchased in the sum of \$8,552.25—total amount spent on land to date, \$37,074.25.
4. Additional property in Ocean View site, which is 10.28 acres in size, in the sum of \$20,119.50—total amount spent on land to date, \$82,731.78.

The Bay View site, located at 3rd and Carroll streets, was also improved by clearing the field, erecting a field house and planting trees.

The Board of Education turned over school property on Greenwich street, between Jones and Leavenworth streets, for playground purposes. The former school building was completely renovated into a first-class community center, and the yard-area developed for recreational purposes.

Every playground was improved, all buildings were adequately furnished and painted, and the grounds placed in good condition. The grounds were also beautified by the planting of shrubs, trees and flowers. The children, as a result, have taken a great deal of pride in their respective playgrounds.

Several playground sites are being improved at this time and will serve thousands of children living within a close radius of the grounds. They are: St. Mary's Park, Balboa Terrace, Potrero Hill, and Ocean View. Property which has been transferred from the Board of Education to this department will also be developed in the very near future.

PRESENT PLAYGROUND AREAS

There are now twenty-five regulation playgrounds, seventeen schoolyard playgrounds, and two open-air swimming-pools operated under trained supervision.



Adult games are popular on North Beach Playground

In addition, the Detention Home has supervised play, and for the first time, during this past school vacation, the playground at the Boys' Aid has been supervised by this department. It is the aim of the Commission to continue this work.

ACTIVITIES

The playground directors expanded their programs, and extended their service, and as a result the well-rounded programs are giving the people of San Francisco an opportunity to enjoy the recreational facilities of the department to a very worthwhile degree.

The following activities are now conducted on the playgrounds:

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Regulation Baseball. | 27. Operettas. |
| 2. Indoor Baseball. | 28. Singing. |
| 3. Swimming. | 29. Bean Bags. |
| 4. Tennis. | 30. Checkers. |
| 5. Basketball. | 31. Jacks. |
| 6. Volley Ball. | 32. Marbles. |
| 7. Handball. | 33. Quoits. |
| 8. Archery. | 34. Circle and Singing Games. |
| 9. Hiking. | 35. Apparatus. |
| 10. Picnics. | 36. Sand Modeling. |
| 11. Soccer. | 37. Hop Scotch. |
| 12. Croquet. | 38. Rope Jumping. |
| 13. Hockey. | 39. Pet Shows. |
| 14. Football. | 40. Doll Shows. |
| 15. Tether Tennis. | 41. Penny Piper Shows. |
| 16. Track and Field. | 42. Camping. |
| 17. Play Days. | 43. Nature Study. |
| 18. Horseshoes. | 44. Camp Fire Girls. |
| 19. Tin Can Golf. | 45. Boy Scouts. |
| 20. Dramatics. | 46. Club Activities. |
| 21. Folk Dancing. | 47. Industrial Groups. |
| 22. Pageantry. | 48. Handicraft. |
| 23. May Days. | 49. Sewing. |
| 24. Toy Symphonies. | 50. Ship Building. |
| 25. Harmonica Bands. | 51. Aircraft Construction. |
| 26. Choral Groups. | |



Playground children in Santa Claus Pageant parade

The program of activities which emanated from the office included:

1. Vacation Activities:
 - a. Picnics and outings for every playground.
 - b. Baseball tournament for boys, with 635 participants.
 - c. Swimming meets for girls and boys.
2. Second annual Lindy League miniature aircraft contest, 598 scale, 205 flying models.
3. Folk Dancing program for Columbus Day Celebration.
4. Playground bond issue exhibit at Annual California Food Products Show, Civic Auditorium.
5. Fall Festival, Civic Auditorium, with 1000 participants.
6. Girls' Swimming Pageant, North Beach Pool.
7. Boys' Basketball Tournament, 988 entered.
8. May festivals, story plays, dramatics, movies for all playgrounds.
9. Flag Contest Units.
10. Penny Piper Shows.
11. Kite Contest, with 489 entries.
12. Track and Field Meet, 707 participants.
13. Tennis Tournament, 2,221 players.
14. Adult Recreation:
 - a. Community Center programs of social nature.
 - b. Basketball, tennis, badminton games.
 - c. Baseball leagues playing on Saturdays and Sundays.
15. Choral groups, quartettes, operettas, harmonica bands, and presentation of a Music Week Program in High School of Commerce Auditorium.
16. Handicraft, including wood work, leather tooling, basketry, kite construction, sand modeling, ship building and aviation.

As a result of the splendid accomplishments made this last year, the future of the Department is more encouraging than it has ever been before.

APPRECIATION

The Playground Commission wishes, in conclusion, to thank the various departments of the city government for their splendid cooperation this past year, and especially wish to express their appreciation to His Honor, James Rolph, Jr., mayor of the City and County of San Francisco; Mr. Edward Rainey, executive secretary to the Mayor; the Board of Supervisors, Board of Education, Park Commission, Police Department, Board of Health, Board of Public Works, Department of Electricity, Public Library, Fire Department, Engineering Department; and all others who have given such valuable assistance in promoting the Playground and Recreation Movement.

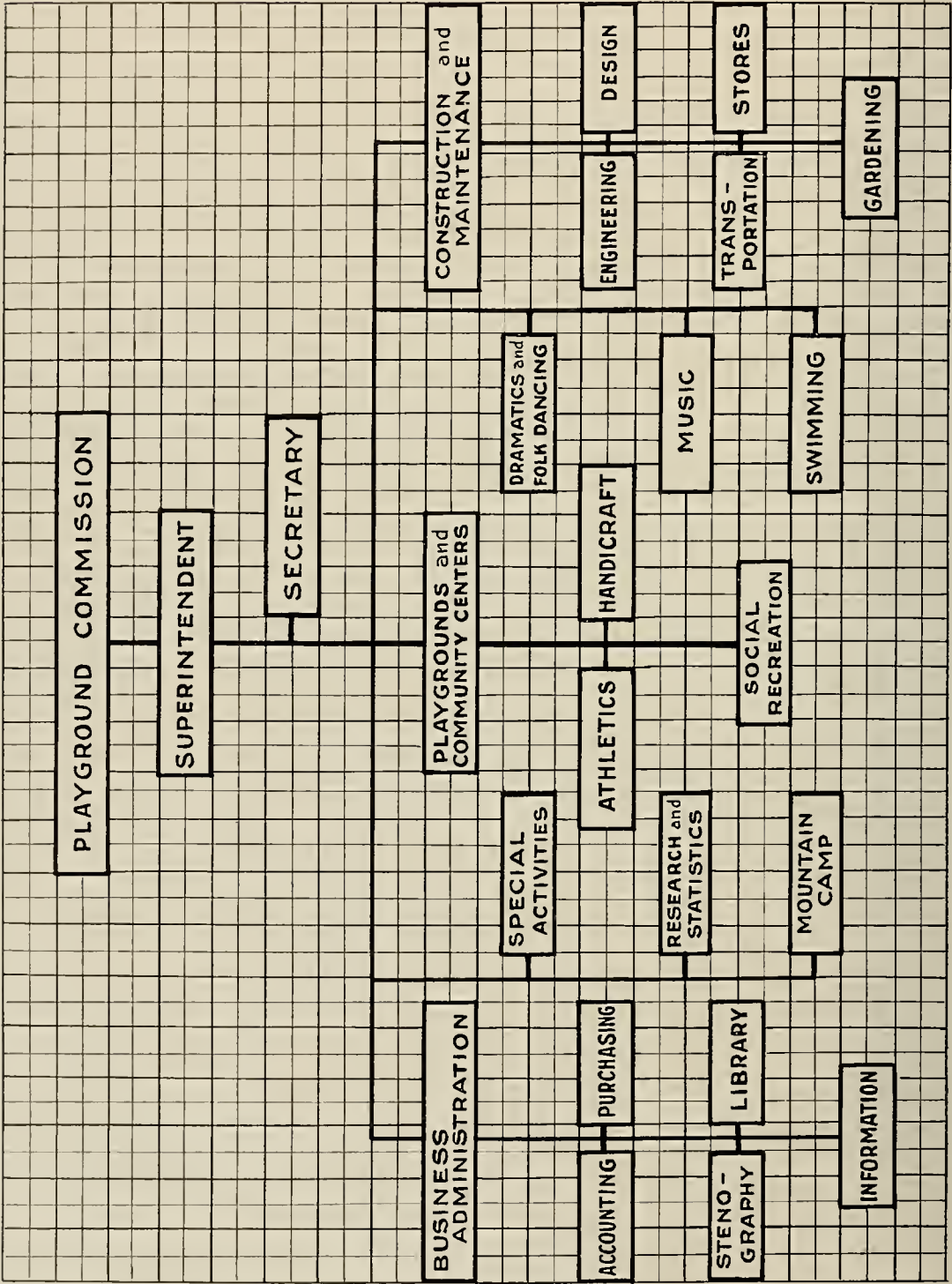


Baseball packs the bleachers at Father Crowley Playground

HISTORY OF PLAYGROUND DEPARTMENT

- 1898 California Club established and supported for three years the first public playground on school property at Bush and Hyde streets.
- 1901 Board of Supervisors gave Board of Education \$12,000 to lease and equip a playground at Seventh and Harrison streets.
- 1904 Bond Issue \$740,000. Purchased **Southside**, renamed **Father Crowley**, and **North Beach Playground**.
- 1907 Playground Commission established by amendment to City Charter.
- 1909 **Jackson**. Land transferred by Park Commission to Playground Commission.
- 1910 **Mission**. Permission given by Board of Education to use portion of land. Additional land purchased by Board of Supervisors and Playground Commission.
Spring Valley, renamed **Helen Wills**, and **Presidio Heights**. Permission given by Board of Education to use land.
- 1911 **Excelsior**. Land purchased by Board of Supervisors for Playground Commission.
Hamilton. Land transferred by Park Commission to Playground Commission.
- 1914 **Richmond No. 1**. Land transferred by Board of Supervisors to Playground Commission.
- 1919 **James Rolph, Jr.** Land purchased by Board of Supervisors for Playground Commission.
- 1920 **Margaret S. Hayward**. Land transferred in 1920 and 1922 by Park Commission to Playground Commission.
- 1922 **Funston**. Land transferred by Park Commission to Playground Commission.
Glen Park. Land purchased by Board of Supervisors for Playground Commission.
Julius Kahn. On ninety-nine-year revocable permit from United States Government land used by Playground Commission.
Ocean View. Original land purchased by Board of Supervisors for Playground Commission. Additional land being purchased by Playground Commission.
- 1923 **Douglass**. Land purchased by Board of Supervisors and transferred to Playground Commission.
- 1924 **Folsom and Portola**. Land purchased by Board of Supervisors for Playground Commission.
James Lick. Original land purchased by Board of Supervisors for Playground Commission. Permission given by Board of Education to use additional land.
- 1925 **Argonne**. Permission given by Board of Education to use land.
Chinese. Land purchased by Playground Commission.
Bay View. Land purchased and transferred by Board of Supervisors to Playground Commission.
- 1926 **Potrero Hill**. Land being purchased by Playground Commission.
- 1927 **Levi Strauss**. Supervised by Playground Commission.
West Portal. Land transferred by Board of Supervisors to Playground Commission.
Dramatic Studio. Building altered for use by Dramatic Department. Property and building transferred by Public Library and Board of Education to the Playground Commission, 1921.
- 1928 **St. Mary's Park**. Parcel of land given by Archbishop of San Francisco, balance being purchased by Playground Commission.
Michaelangelo. Permission given by Board of Education to use land.
Balboa Terrace. Land being purchased by Playground Commission.
Bond Issue \$3,100,000 submitted to voters. Vote registered 13,469 majority, but not the necessary two-thirds majority to carry.
- 1929 **Extension Funston Playground**. Permission given by Board of Education to Playground Commission to use land.
Richmond No. 2. Permission given by Board of Education to use land.

ORGANIZATION CHART



ORGANIZATION—ACTIVITIES

THE working organization of the San Francisco Playground Commission is composed of three departments:

1. The Business Department.
2. The Construction and Maintenance Department.
3. The Activity Department.

All three departments are closely interrelated, the Business Department and Construction and Maintenance Department functioning to provide proper facilities for the Activity Department.

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

The enlargement and adjustment of the office during the fiscal year has proved of great advantage to the staff, increasing efficiency through introduction of many improvements that were found desirable.

The increase in the Annual Budget for 1928-29 made possible an extensive readjustment of the Maintenance and Construction Program, involving much additional work in the Purchasing, Bookkeeping and Stenographic Divisions of the office.

The Business Department functions in three divisions:

1. Bookkeeping.
2. Purchasing.
3. Stenography.

Bookkeeping methods are determined by the City and County Auditor's office.

All purchasing is done in conjunction with the City Bureau of Supplies.

The Stenographic Division functions in four branches:

1. Stenography and Typewriting
2. Filing.
3. Information Service.
4. Library.

The library is maintained for the service of the playground directors, and is designed to supply information in regard to all games, activities, programs and all matters pertaining to recreation. Incoming books, magazines, reports, pamphlets, programs, etc.,



Spring Festival at Civic Center is always a playground feature

are tabulated and filed. A check system is maintained of books taken from the library by the directors.

The San Francisco Public Library has worked out a splendid system of cooperation with the individual playgrounds.

An attractive poster is sent to each playground from the Main Library directing the children to the nearest Branch Library, and monthly bulletins are sent to the playgrounds listing all books pertaining to the particular sports in season. For instance, during basketball season, the list includes all books dealing with basketball.

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE DEPARTMENT

Construction and Maintenance Department functions in the following capacities:

1. Surveys, estimates and studies proposed properties.
2. Designs, grades, surfaces and landscapes grounds; designs and erects buildings and equipment.
3. Maintains the following services for the benefit of the Activity Department:
 - a. Operates storeroom and delivers all supplies.
 - b. Maintains a repair service on all properties.
 - c. Furnishes transportation.
 - d. Maintains janitor and caretaker service on all properties.
 - e. Builds and erects dramatic settings, etc.
 - f. Furnishes skilled and common labor when required.

After a careful inspection of all physical properties on the playgrounds at the beginning of the fiscal year, it was deemed advisable, from an engineering standpoint, to eliminate all idea of patchwork and aim at complete reconditioning of all properties.

A study of the problem resulted in the adoption of the following policy:

1. To rebuild every property until it should be as serviceable and attractive as new.
2. To use only the most permanent and serviceable types of construction.
3. To develop new areas along same lines, as rapidly as funds would permit.



Funston Playground field house—Class A type



Hamilton Playground field house is Class B type

4. To provide field houses according to the following classifications:

Class A. Containing a basketball court and auditorium, with stage and dressing-rooms, club-rooms, kitchen, directors' offices, showers, lavatories, and caretaker's tool-room.

Class B. Containing an auditorium, with stage and dressing-rooms, club-rooms, kitchen, directors' offices, showers, lavatories, and caretaker's tool-room.

Class C. Containing a club-room, kitchen, director's office, showers, lavatories, and caretaker's tool-room.

5. Playgrounds to be provided with one or more baseball or football fields, asphalt-paved basketball and tennis courts, apparatus section, and mothers' section, as areas will permit.

With this policy in view, construction and rehabilitation programs were begun and substantially advanced during the fiscal year.

ACTIVITY DEPARTMENT

The growth of the Activity Department is reflected in the enlargement of the program and the increased number of participants in all playground activities.

In addition to the regular annual tournaments, such as baseball, basketball, and tennis, there were held this year several special events which interested children who had not been previously attracted to the playgrounds.

Tennis Tournament. The largest tennis tournament in the history of the Playground Commission was held this year with a total of 2144 boys and girls participating.

Girls' Volley Ball Tournament. Eighteen playgrounds, with 289 girls participating, were entered in the Volley Ball Tournament. The Hamilton Playground girls carried off the honors.

Boys' Basketball Tournament. Boys to the number of 721, representing 27 playgrounds, took part in the Annual Basketball Tournament.

Vacation Baseball Tournament. More than 700 boys placed in the Junior, Intermediate and Senior Vacation Baseball Tournament this year. The tournament followed the American Legion National Baseball Series, in which 50 San Francisco teams were entered. The Funston Playground team won the city championship and the privilege of playing several out-of-town teams.

Playground Olympiad. The most successful event ever held by the Department out-of-doors was the joint Play Day Track and Field Meet at Jackson Playground in May. Girls, to the number of 614, and more than 400 boys participated. The field was gaily decorated and the event attracted a record-breaking throng of onlookers. Every nation taking part in the Olympic Games of 1928 was represented by the children of the playgrounds.

Kite Flying Contest. The first kite tournament ever held by the Department was another outstanding event of the year. Enthusiastic interest was shown by thousands of children and adults, especially by Chinese children. Of the more than 200 kites, many were unusually designed and exceptionally beautiful. In sizes, the entries ranged from a few inches in length to over six feet.

Soap Modeling Contest. A soap modeling and sculpturing contest was conducted on the playgrounds and an exhibition of the children's work was held in the City Hall.

Lindy League. Ever since the inception of the Lindy League great interest has been demonstrated in miniature aircraft construction. During the year, 598 scale and 205 flying models were made. The outdoor meet was held at Golden Gate Park Stadium, and the indoor meet at the State Armory.

Several records made by San Francisco competitors were better than those scored at the National Contest at Atlantic City.

On invitation of Superintendent Frank Flynn of the Municipal Airport, 500 Lindy League winners visited Mills Field and lunched al fresco.

Permanent class instruction was established at four playgrounds, with boys experienced in miniature aircraft construction in charge. The classes were held at Funston, Richmond, Glen Park and Jackson playgrounds.

Picnic and Hiking Schedule. Hundreds of children accompanied their playground directors on the various outings arranged during the vacation period. Many groups went to the beach, the Fleishhacker Swimming-Pool, Mt. Davidson, the Presidio, or to more distant places, such as Mt. Tamalpais and Muir Woods.

Additional Activities. In addition to the large tournaments, many inter-playground activities were held. Throughout the year the following activities were con-



Margaret S. Hayward field house—Class C type

ducted: indoor baseball, handball, marbles, jacks, top spinning, checkers, bean bags, folk dancing, tin can golf, croquet, sand modeling, apparatus play, circle and singing games, sewing, archery, soccer football, hockey, tether tennis, pet shows, club activities, adult athletic clubs, play days, horseshoes and quoits.

School Playground Programs. At Hamilton, Folsom and Ocean View playgrounds, noonday athletic schedules were conducted for children from near-by schools.

Camp Reunion. A camp reunion was held in the Civic Auditorium for all San Franciscans who had been to Mountain Camp at Mather during the vacation. The entertainment consisted of a program and dance.

Playground Exhibit. The Annual Playground Exhibit, held in connection with the California Food Household Exposition at the Civic Auditorium, attracted favorable comment and was valuable as an educational medium.

Service Activities. Groups of playground children took toys, scrap-books and miniature airplanes to the Children's Hospital and the San Francisco Hospital for Christmas. Dolls were taken to the orphanages, and several groups of Camp Fire Girls distributed baskets of food to needy families.

PLAY DIRECTORS' EXAMINATION

The first examination for play directors was held on January 28, 1929. The necessary qualifications for examination were:

1. At least 20 years of age.
2. Without physical handicap.
3. At least two years' attendance at a college, university, recreational training school, or equivalent.
4. At least one year's residence in San Francisco.

Those who passed the examination were placed on an eligible list and called for substitute work while awaiting permanent appointment.



The Chinese Playground field house is Class C type

WHERE 37 VARIETIES PLAY

NO other city can boast, perhaps, of the diverse colors and races of children that meet to play on San Francisco's playgrounds. If colors and races of children make playground personality, then no other city in the world can boast, perhaps, of such an interesting playground personality.

Many of the characteristics that make San Francisco's playgrounds so fascinating are clearly traceable to the thirty-odd nationalities that assemble in the friendliest spirit of play on the city's playgrounds.

The spirit of play, that filled the Spaniards with the love of fiestas and fandangos, is brought to the playgrounds by the descendants of San Francisco's Spanish ancestors. Here, too, come the sunny, nature-loving Italians, the expressive French, the impassive Nordics, the stoic Chinese and Japanese, the fun-loving, work-loving children of the Argonauts to play together. And with them the Celts, the Aryans and children of the Slavs foregather in a common desire to find fun.

THEY MAKE MORE FUN

Thus have all the corners of the earth contributed their shares in making San Francisco's playgrounds especially rich in music, drama, dress, folk-lore and inspiring play-games.

Swinging on the Golden Gate, San Francisco plays tag with the ships from the seven seas in a spirit of fun that lives on into the city's playgrounds. And from their playground hills the romping children see those ships and make more fun.

One of San Francisco's playgrounds, where records show that 37 nationalities mingle in the spirit of play, is the former Southside Playground, renamed Father Crowley Playground. Of it, Miles Overholt's gifted pen has painted a perfect picture in verses, which, by permission of Playground Commissioner George Hearst, publisher, are herewith reprinted from the "San Francisco Examiner." Mr. Overholt's verses tell a story of Americanization.



Handicraft class at Funston Playground



SONGS OF SAN FRANCISCO



South Side Playground



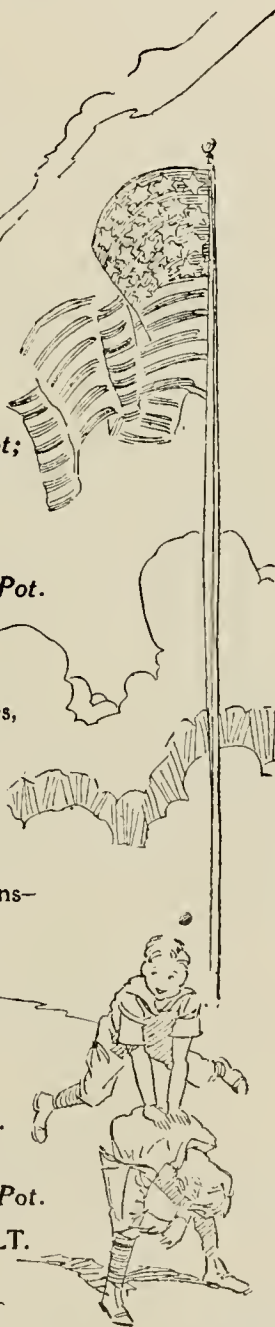
Thirty-seven, the kinds of kids
That clatter adown the playground skids.
Black and yellow and brown and white—
Babel never glimpsed such a sight!
Children little and children tall,
And children hardly kids at all—
Far too old, though years are few,
"On their own" or they "just grew";
Gathered from the vacant lot
And hurtled into the Melting Pot.

*Stirring, stirring the Melting Pot
Here at the South Side Playground plot;
Green and inviting, this beauty spot;
Plenty of room for the tiny tot ;
Sympathy stands at the vacant lot,
But Love stands stirring the Melting Pot.*

Thirty-seven, the foreign lands
Represented by chubby hands.
South of the Slot are heard strange tongues,
South of the Slot are heard strong lungs.
Every color and every creed;
Good ones, bad ones, flower and weed;
Some with smiles and some with frowns,
For some were serfs where once were crowns—
So the Future stands and checks the lot
As all go into the Melting Pot.

*Stirring, stirring the Melting Pot!
Freedom the fire that keeps it hot.
Patriotism adorns the spot
That calls the children below the Slot...
Sympathy stands at the vacant lot,
But Love stands stirring the Melting Pot.*

—MILES OVERHOLT.





Where 37 Varieties Play

Father Crowley Playground and some of the 37 varieties of children that play there:

1—Russian; 2—Italian; 3—Swiss; 4—Greek; 5—Spanish; 6—Porto Rican;

7—Hindu; 8—English; 9—Chinese; 10—Irish; 11—Armenian;

12—Serbian; 13—Swedish; 14—Chilean; 15—Japanese;

16—French.

TOTAL 3,891,542 PLAY PERIODS

ON San Francisco's 25 regular playgrounds, 17 schoolyard playgrounds, and nine community center playgrounds, there was recorded during the fiscal year 1928-29 a total of 3,891,542 play periods.

To understand what that means, it is necessary to know that a play period is a two-to-three-hour period of playing by a child on one of our city's playgrounds. You can readily understand, then, that 3,891,542 play periods, averaging two and one-half hours each meant a lot of fun, a lot of health and a lot of playing.

PLAY DIRECTORS' COURSE

From October 1 to November 8, 1928, the Playground Commission offered a recreational training course to its playground directors. There were 82 enrolled and twenty-four hours of instruction given. The course included:

1. The Theory of Play, and Club Organization.
2. Games, including Party Programs, Group Games, Circle and Singing Games.
3. Story-Telling, and Story Play.

The course proved to be a decided success and, the Commission believes, will tend to standardize the work of playground directors.



James Lick and Funston champions annex Vacation Tournament honors



Funston baseball diamond is always in demand

DRAMATICS—STORY PLAY

RECOGNIZING that dramatic expression through play-acting offers to many children an outlet for the play spirit more alluring than athletic activities, the San Francisco Playground Commission during the fiscal year 1928-29 broadened the scope of playground dramatics to include children as young as five years of age.

In consequence, dramatic activities on the playgrounds went ahead by leaps and bounds during the year, more than 3000 children taking part in programs, more than 7000 participating in story play group meetings, with audiences totaling more than 25,000.

Dramatic training, as now conducted at the playgrounds, begins with story-telling to groups of little ones who, when they have learned the stories, are encouraged to dramatize them in their own way. This is called "story play," in which the child just plays a character. From story play the children are advanced to real dramatics with written parts.

7685 STORY-PLAY CHILDREN

Although story play supervision began only in November, 1928, by the end of the fiscal year, June 30, 1929, 7685 children had participated in story play groups conducted at twenty playgrounds.

In real dramatics, too, the year showed remarkably increased activity. From 2500 children who took part in performances in 1927-28, the number increased to over 3000 for 1928-29, and the number of playground performances increased from 60 to 86.

The programs included a Fall Festival in November and a Carol and Tableau program at Christmas-time. Interest in the Fall Festival was so keen that the city's great Civic Auditorium was filled with a capacity audience that would have done honor to professional talent.

Several plays evolved in the story play groups were presented on the playgrounds during the year. Excelsior Playground produced "Snow-White and the Seven Dwarfs."



"The Nativity," Christmas-time tableau by Dramatics Department



"The Frog Prince" was staged at North Beach Pool

A group of girls from the Chinese Playground, using their own Chinese costumes, gave a delightfully Oriental flavor to "Aladdin and His Wonderful Lamp."

During the summer program a story play was presented each Friday afternoon at various playgrounds, including:

- "Hansel and Grethel," at Funston.
- "Jack and the Beanstalk," by Father Crowley, at Jackson.
- "Red Riding Hood," by Father Crowley, at Jackson.
- "Taper Tomm," at Jackson.
- "Jack and the Beanstalk," at Ocean View.
- "Snow-White and the Seven Dwarfs," at Douglass.
- "Boots, Who Silenced the Princess," by West Portal, at Douglass.
- "The Frog Prince," at Argonne.
- "The Three Bears," at Argonne.
- "Red Riding Hood," at Michaelangelo.
- "The Three Bears," at Michaelangelo.
- "Cinderella," by James Rolph, Jr., at Michaelangelo.

EAGER AND UNSELF-CONSCIOUS

The method followed for development of story play groups during the year involved training of playground directors and the starting of groups by the Story Play Director, each playground director eventually taking over his own group.

The result was thousands of children at the playgrounds taking turns in being the people of a story, creating their lines and action, developing the story play into play form, interested, eager and unself-conscious; and all the while acquiring poise and manners and the power of self-expression, which, without this playground training, might elude them all their lives.

Altogether, the year was brightly dramatic for the playgrounds, with the always beautiful Spring Festival in May at the Civic Center a Terpsichorean spectacle of picturesque dancing in which all of the city's playgrounds took part.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

CREATED only four months before the beginning of this fiscal year, 1928-29, the Music Department of the San Francisco playgrounds has already become an important recreational and educational factor in the playground organization.

Furnishing a delightful medium for self-expression, music attained a record during the year of 14,580 contacts, with 25 definitely formed groups meeting weekly under trained supervisors.

The Department aims to afford enjoyable recreation through music and provide activities for leisure time, the while it endeavors to raise the standards of self-expression by presenting the best music in the most attractive manner.

EXTENSIVE VOICE CULTURE

Most extensive work has been done in voice culture. Sixteen children's choruses and a number of adult groups were organized during the year. Outstanding among the latter were: a group of Italian boys that met regularly, a quartet of Chinese sisters, and an organized glee club of business girls. The Chinese sisters became very much in demand and are now doing professional work.

The rhythm band, or toy symphony, proved a popular form of low instrumentation. There were three of these orchestras meeting once a week during the year, with attendance totaling 3120 children during the twelve months; and numerous programs were given to large and appreciative audiences.

Other popular groups were the harmonica bands. The Department organized three of these during the year. In a city-wide harmonica contest two of the playground boys ranked among the first in a large and talented group of contestants.

PLAYGROUND ORCHESTRA

A playground orchestra organized by the Department, furnished all the music for the Spring Festival in May.



Choral group has fun at James Lick Playground



All set to make music is this rhythm band

The Music Department and the Dramatics Department cooperated in giving two large city-wide productions, the Annual Fall Festival at the Civic Auditorium, and the first Annual Music Week program. In addition, the Music Department furnished harmony numbers for many programs, gave three operettas, and selected music for many dances and pageants.

The groups organized by the Department were:

Children's choruses, 16; toy symphonies, 3; harmonica bands, 3; adult groups, 3; orchestra, 1; total enrolled, 553; total attendance, 14,580.

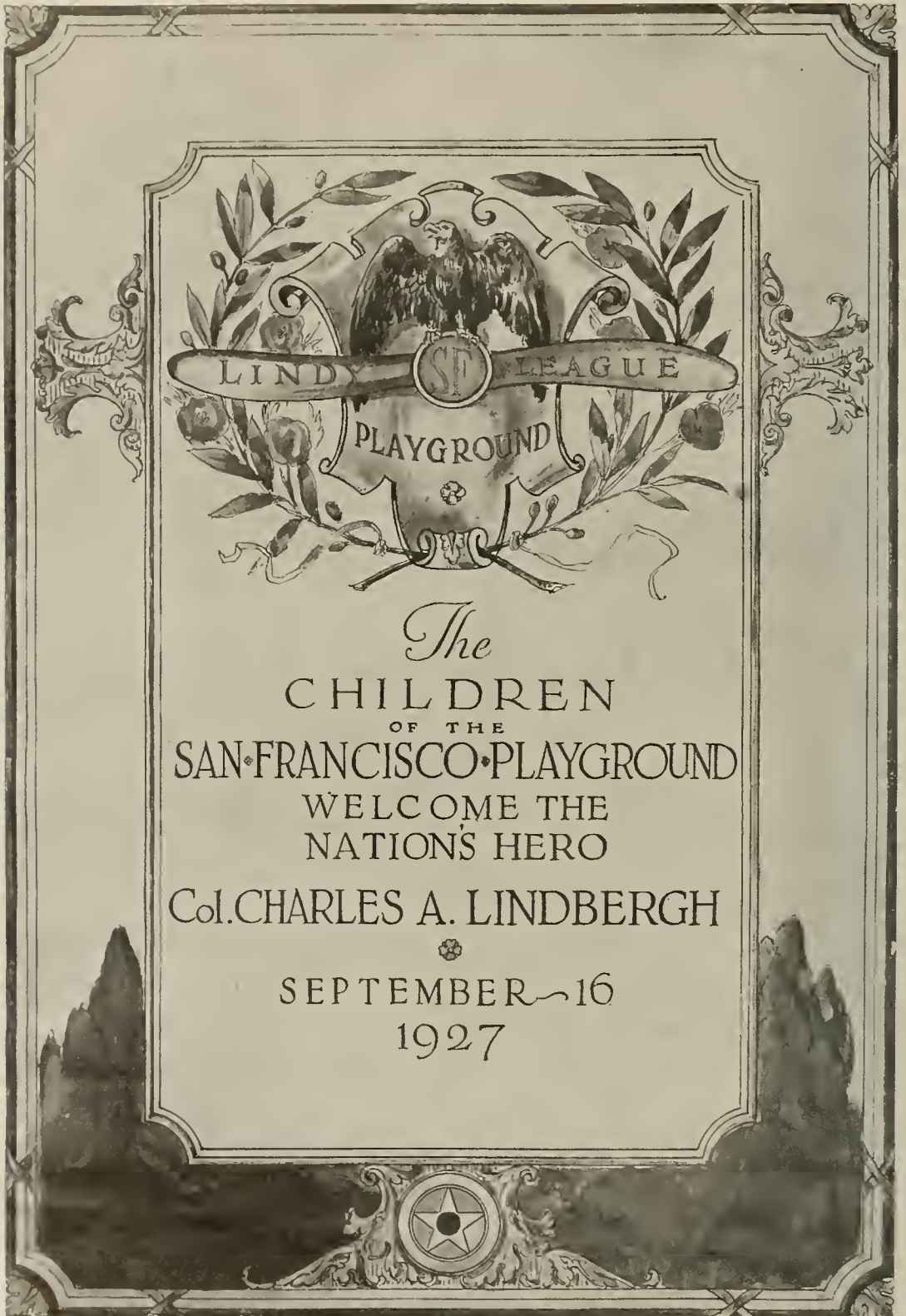
Many new groups were in process of organization at conclusion of the year.

AN APPRECIATION

THERE are some things in life worth more than money. To learn that your work has been appreciated is one of them. Altogether too many in authority never think of distributing golden words of thanks and praise. But Miss Josephine Dows Randall, superintendent of San Francisco playgrounds, is not one of the thoughtless ones.

Here is what Miss Randall sent to the members of the Executive Staff and all playground directors and employees of the Department at conclusion of the fiscal year:

"The past three years has been a period of complete reorganization and adjustment in the Playground Department, and the Superintendent wishes to express sincere appreciation to the Executive Staff, directors, and employees, who have worked so loyally to make possible a broader program of activities, placing the work on a sound business basis at a minimum cost, and, by so doing, serving a far greater number of San Francisco citizens."



VELLUM SCROLL PRESENTED TO "LINDY"

THE LINDY LEAGUE

THE Lindy League, named in honor of Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh, America's beloved "Lindy of the Air," was organized by the San Francisco Playground Department in June, 1927.

The Lindy League, dedicated to all pioneers who have set new trails in the skies, is designed to give the boys and girls of San Francisco a direct personal interest in America's advancement of aviation.

The idea of the Lindy League, oddly enough, came from a diffident little Chinese boy, who said to a director at the Chinese Playground, as he displayed a toy airplane: "I want to be a great man like 'Lindy.'"

The San Francisco Playground Commission is justly proud of its Lindy League, the inspiring influence of which is being manifested in the playgrounds of the whole country.

The membership emblem—a propeller surmounted by an eagle against the background of a shield, and bearing the inscription, "S. F. Playground Lindy League"—took on added significance when Colonel Lindbergh, himself, was presented with one, together with a beautiful vellum scroll, on his memorable visit to San Francisco, September 16, 1927.

Rules and regulations were drawn up for a first model aviation contest, which was held in September, 1927, with approximately 2000 competing. The majority of planes entered were scale models. However, there was a substantial number of flying planes.

CONTEST WAS A SENSATION

The contest was a sensation and the newspapers "played it up."

From that flying start, the Lindy League has progressed amazingly, and hundreds of air-minded boys are constantly at work fashioning model planes, especially of the flying type.



Miniature aircraft class on Funston Playground

HANDICRAFT

THE San Francisco Playground Commission has for a number of years encouraged handicraft activities at the playgrounds as a satisfying medium for personal expression by many children.

Results have proven that providing handicraft instruction on the playgrounds has built up attendance by offering congenial activity to thousands of children who do not care to indulge in the more strenuous games or athletic programs.

Handicraft furnishes the means of awakening in the child an appreciation of the beautiful, and a gratifying sense of something accomplished. A happy combination of the creative instinct with the play spirit of youth, which most children possess, led hundreds of boys and girls to join playground groups during the year, who otherwise might have stayed away.

OF LIFELONG VALUE

Not the mere joy of possessing toys and utilitarian articles they have made is all the reward that children may get out of their handicraft activities. Hobbies of lifelong value may have their origin, in many instances, on the playgrounds.

MANY ACTIVITIES INCLUDED

Plans for increasing the scope of handicraft activities at the playgrounds are being considered, because many beneficial and gratifying results have already been attained. Closer contact and understanding between the Playground Department and home, school, civic and social organizations and business enterprises has resulted from the handicraft program, and, the Department feels, warrants its further development.

The following activities are among those at present included in the program: coping-saw work, miniature aircraft, ship building, sand modeling, paper art, sewing, soap sculpturing, leather tooling, basketry, reed and raffia work, kite construction, and wood carving.



Lindy League members work on Richmond Playground



The winners of the Basketball Tournament

ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

SAN FRANCISCO possesses, perhaps beyond comparison with any other major center of population in the world, an ideal climate and location for the encouragement of athletics. Adding to this the cosmopolitan character of the city's population we have a resultant intense and continuous interest and participation in athletic activities on the playgrounds.

With a climate neither hot in summer nor cold in winter, as other communities figure the seasons, San Francisco offers 365 possible play-days during the year—and quadrennially 366.

As conducted by the Playground Department, the following may be considered the athletic activities of major importance: tennis, baseball, basketball, track and field, handball, and soccer.

MORE AND MORE PARTICIPATE

Annual athletic tournaments for these various activities, in which all the playgrounds participate, have been held successfully for the past several years, and have grown tremendously in numbers participating each succeeding year.

At the close of each tournament, outstanding players and coaches from the near-by universities, or from athletic clubs, or other persons of prominence in the athletic world are invited to address the winners. This is done to emphasize the importance and significance of the athletic program.

From such addresses, unquestionably, the children also derive benefit. Great inspiration is given them through such opportunities of personally meeting athletic celebrities and listening to their words of wisdom and encouragement.

This method of popularizing the athletic program was followed during the year, and will be continued.

However the emphasis in athletic competition will be placed on individual playground competitive events, and not on inter-playground tournaments. This, it is believed, will greatly increase the aggregate of athletic play-participants.

PLAYGROUNDS A MORAL FORCE

DO you know that the playgrounds of San Francisco are helping to keep many boys and girls out of the Juvenile Court?

And do you know that we have not enough playgrounds?

Are you aware that, as playgrounds have increased, delinquency among children has proportionately decreased?

Are you aware that the highest authority in San Francisco on delinquency of children has credited the playgrounds with being the most effective agency for the prevention of delinquency among children?

Well, those are the facts—and you mothers and fathers should know them. You will then realize the tremendous importance of more playgrounds for your city—and for your children.

Here is what J. C. Astredo, chief probation officer of the San Francisco Juvenile Court, had to say in the March, 1929, issue of "The Municipal Employee" regarding the playgrounds:

"From my experience in this Juvenile Court, I would name first, on the list of agencies preventing delinquency, the public playground.

"Some years ago boys were brought to the attention of the court for playing ball on the streets or for some similar reason which had its origin in the child's desire for an inherent right to play.

"Today playgrounds have been established in so many sections of the city that a majority of the children can play—play legitimately and, because such play must be done in groups, play under a supervision which gives them the best in the way of health-giving sport that play offers."

You will note that Chief Probation Officer Astredo observes that only "a majority of the children can play" on the playgrounds.

Why not more playgrounds so that all the children can get the benefit of supervised playing on the playgrounds?

PLAY IN SAFETY

SINCE street-playing has become in this automobile age about as dangerous as playing with dynamite, the San Francisco Playground Commission during the year continued its campaign to discourage street-playing by children.

With the increase in playground facilities throughout the city, the Playground Commission inaugurated a campaign to inform parents and children of the dangers attending children that play in the streets. In addition to securing the cooperation of parents in having their children "play in safety" on the playgrounds, the Department sought to extend the safety education to include also playground children.

Directors at all playgrounds gave "safety talks" to children during the year.

Statistics, furnished by the Public Safety Department of the California State Automobile Association, emphasized the importance of the "play in safety" campaign.

These statistics disclosed that in San Francisco 27 children under fifteen years of age were killed by automobiles in 1926, 18 in 1927, and 22 in 1928.

Every ninety minutes each day, a child under fifteen years of age is killed by an automobile somewhere in the United States, the statistics indicate.

The Playground Commission plans to continue its "play in safety" campaign until parents will no longer knowingly permit their children to use the dangerous streets for playgrounds.



Maybe a future world's champion among these tennis winners

TENNIS IS POPULAR

THE delightful game of tennis has been always popular on the San Francisco playgrounds. From 1919, when the first tournament was held, this annual event has attracted more and more entrants, with 2221 competing in this year's tournament.

California stands preeminent in the development of tennis, and, favored by its equable and invigorating climate, San Francisco stands perhaps preeminent in California. Many of today's leading tennis-players received their first instruction on the city's playground courts.

The Playground Commission has encouraged this activity by inviting outstanding players to give exhibition matches on the playgrounds from time to time and by conducting annual tournaments for children up to 18 years of age.

INDEBTED TO CELEBRITIES

The Commission is indebted to Dr. Sumner Hardy, president of the California Lawn Tennis Association, and "Pop" Fuller for their assistance and encouragement in popularizing the sport.

That tennis has increased wonderfully in popularity is shown by the increasing number of tournament entrants since the first tournament in 1918-1919:

Year	Entrants
1918-19	255
1919-20	548
1920-21	972
1921-22	1742
1922-23	2064
1923-24	2101
1924-25	2001
1925-26	2031
1926-27	2031
1927-28	2144
1928-29	2221

Installation of a number of additional courts during the year, among them two at Helen Wills Playground, has not yet entirely solved the problem of taking care of San Francisco's tennis-playing children.

AT THE SWIMMING-POOLS

DROP a little kitten in the water—it swims. Drop a little chick in the water—it swims. Drop a little bug in the water—it swims. Which is all very well and fine—But drop a little child in the water—or, rather, don't drop it; for, if it hasn't been taught to swim, a child will be in danger of drowning.

And that is just why the San Francisco Playground Commission, having established two fine swimming-pools for the boys and girls of San Francisco, is anxious to provide at least two more. Failure of the bond issue to get a two-thirds' majority vote at the November election has delayed the building of these additional life-saving play-places.

LIFE-SAVING KNOWLEDGE

The underlying principle of teaching the children of San Francisco to swim is not to teach them to become expert speed swimmers, but to train them so that, if the occasion should arise, they can care for themselves, or possibly save the lives of others.

The idea is carried out by conducting beginning, intermediate and advanced classes for instruction. Before a child is permitted to go into the deep water, he must first pass the deep-water test, which consists of swimming the width of the pool, 30 feet, twice, floating, treading water, sculling, and performing a simple dive.

After having passed the deep-water test, the child's name is placed in the card-files. An oral test is also given to ascertain the child's understanding of what to do in emergencies.

358 GIRLS LEARN TO SWIM

It is to be noted that 358 girls qualified under instruction during the year to swim in deep water, 192 at Mission Pool and 166 at North Beach Pool, a worthwhile achievement.



North Beach Pool Swimming Show; 18 mermaids set to go

The Playground Commission and the Board of Education cooperate in permitting children to use the pools during school hours, providing the children are chaperoned by a teacher and the pools are supervised by a life-guard and swimming-instructor.

Classes from the Junior High Schools attended the pools regularly during the year to receive instruction in swimming, diving and life-saving. Various grammar school groups throughout the city, groups from special classes, and tiny-tot groups also received swimming lessons regularly.

More than 500 children were registered in these groups.

Junior and Senior Swimming Clubs played an important role in the year's swimming program, planned to cover the swimming season, which, in San Francisco, lasts seven months out of the year.

ANNUAL SWIMMING MEETS

The boys' and girls' Annual Swimming Meets were held in June. With the cooperation of various playgrounds and the Dramatic Department of the Playground Commission, a group of girl swimmers also staged "The Frog Prince," a pageant, at the North Beach Pool.

This season a charge of five cents was made for the use of a suit and towel, and dressing-room, and for instruction. It is believed that the small charge kept many children from running in and out of the pools several times a day, but did not otherwise noticeably affect the attendance.

Records show that 8515 girls and 11,136 boys used the Mission Pool during the year, a total of 19,651. North Beach Pool attendance was: girls, 5184; boys, 7203; total, 12,387. The totals for both pools were: girls, 13,699; boys, 18,339; grand total, 32,038.

Operating cost of the pools was: Mission Pool, \$4350.19; North Beach Pool, \$4684.48; total, \$9034.67. Revenue derived from the two pools was: Mission Pool, \$916.85; North Beach Pool, \$295.25; total, \$1212.10.

Maintaining the pools cost 24 cents for every boy and girl who attended and took a swimming lesson.



Swimming class in action at Mission Pool



Handicraft exhibition at Merchants Exchange

PLAYGROUND EXHIBITS

THE Playground Commission has, for a number of years, employed various methods of acquainting the public with the scope of playground work. This has been done with a view of attracting children in larger numbers to the playgrounds.

One excellent method has been through exhibits in the Civic Auditorium where large groups assemble at food products shows or industrial expositions. Playground directors in charge of such exhibits answer all questions and furnish information to those desiring to be informed of the Commission's activities.

An important feature on such occasions has been a Saturday-afternoon program featuring playground children in musical and folk dancing numbers provided by the Music and Dramatic Departments of the Playground Commission.

ADULT RECREATION

MAYBE it's the ozone in the air that wafts in from the ocean. Maybe it's the songs of wild birds in the trees that crown the city's thousand hilltops. Maybe it's the stars that twinkle so friendlily at night. Or maybe it's just the Spirit of Eternal Youth attracted by our matchless clime—

But whatever it may be, San Francisco's innovation of playground fun for grown-ups became astoundingly popular during the year.

Mothers' groups for singing and acting and card-playing and sewing became one of the high lights of evening activities at playground field houses.

In addition, groups of younger adults met for singing and acting and dancing; and playgrounds and community centers took on a new and delightful activity.

AN ALL-MOTHERS DRAMA GROUP

Night activities on community center playgrounds offer an especially interesting type of recreation. Almost every variety of competitive, creative and organized club activity, regularly supervised, is encouraged by the Playground Commission.

Dramatics is one of the most popular of evening club activities, nearly every club group during the year having taken part in one or more dramatic entertainments. On one playground a dramatic group is composed entirely of mothers of playground children.

At another playground, an evening group, composed of young working people from 17 to 21 years of age, presented a series of nativity plays, so well done as to receive newspaper commendation. At another evening recreational center, situated in the heart of the Italian district, a glee club was formed by 35 young men of Italian parentage and made fine progress. Groups of boys organized harmonica clubs at three centers and at one a group of young men organized an accordion club.

A MOTHERS' GLEE CLUB

Among the notable achievements was a mothers' glee club, which featured community singing and short musical programs. A senior girls' group, including girls between the ages of 17 and 20, presented a successful concert in June, thus concluding the fiscal year with a delightful program of evening musical features.

Friday-night dances at the centers were an innovation in the latter part of the year and have proven popular, bringing parents and younger folk out in large numbers.

Specialized groups engaged in a variety of activities regularly at the evening recreational centers, among the activities being: tap dancing, tumbling, and Camp Fire Girls and Boy Scout entertainments.

These activities were encouraged, organized and directed by the playground directors and carefully supervised.

In this comparatively new field of playground endeavor the Playground Commission is aiming to maintain a well-balanced program so as to make the centers even yet more popular for both the old and young.



All kings and queens at Excelsior Playground whist party

COOPERATIVE USE OF FACILITIES AND PROGRAM

EVER since the inception of the Playground Commission it has maintained close and helpful cooperation with many organizations and associations, especially in the use of playground facilities and in the presentation of programs.

The groups availing themselves of the recreational opportunities, as well as those that have cooperated in innumerable ways, are constantly on the increase. Among the cooperative contacts made during the fiscal year were the following:

Public, private, and parochial schools.
Churches.
Parents' and Teachers' Association.
United States Army.
United States Navy.
University of California.
Leland Stanford University.
Hastings College of the Law.
San Francisco Chamber of Commerce.
San Francisco Junior Chamber of Commerce.
California State Automobile Association.
Radio stations.
City departments and officials.
Camp Fire Girls of America.

Boy Scouts of America.
San Francisco Boys' Club.
California Boys' Club.
California Lawn Tennis Association.
Letterman General Hospital.
Shriners' Hospital for Crippled Children.
The Laguna Honda Home.
House of Friendship.
Golden Gate Kindergarten Association.
California State Department of Social Welfare.
United States Post Office Clerks' Association.
Steamship and railroad companies.
The San Francisco newspapers.
Local and national magazines.



The harmonica is a favorite at Chinese Playground

ADULT BASEBALL

THE interest in baseball is so great that it has been found utterly impossible adequately to take care of all the young men wishing to play on the eleven regulation playground baseball diamonds maintained by the Playground Department.

However, the eleven diamonds are put to utmost use each Saturday afternoon and Sunday, at which time only adults are permitted to play.

A splendid system for booking and handling of all league and independent games is satisfactorily maintained by the Department, so that maximum use of the diamonds is made during the time allotted to adults.

MANY TEAMS USE PLAYGROUND DIAMONDS

Through the system, 22 games are played each Saturday afternoon and 33 games each Sunday. A total of 110 adult baseball teams contact weekly with the city playgrounds. The playing time allowed for each game is two hours, games starting on Saturdays at 1:30 P. M. and on Sundays at 10 A. M., noon, and 2 P. M.

The playground diamonds of San Francisco, during the year, served the following teams:

Leib Keyston & Co.	Duisenberg Wiehman & Co.
Anderson and Fox.	E. A. Peirce & Co.
S. F. Stock Exchange.	Sutro & Co.
Stock Exchange Institute.	J. Barth & Co.
American Trust.	Bank of Italy.
Bank of America.	Anglo-California Trust Co.
Anglo and London Paris National Bank.	Ed. Brown & Co.
Automobile Insurance Co. of Hartford	Royal Insurance Co.
Continental Insurance Co.	Hartford Insurance Co.
North America Accident Insurance Co.	Municipal Railway.
San Francisco Red Men.	Local 30's.
Ruseo Motor Co.	Rich Pie Shop Inc.
Foster's Lunch.	San Francisco Antlers.
Kahn & Keville.	Porto Rican All Stars.
Merry Bachelors.	Verdi Club.
Great Western Power Co.	Schulken Southside.
Isuan Ginger Ale.	Olympic Florist.
John De Martini.	Rolph Club.
Pathe News	Perkins Lunch.
Meyers Safety Switch.	W. P. Fuller Co.
Del Ray Pure Food.	Dan P. Maher.
Ponee Club.	El Capitan Lunch.
Ingleside Federals.	Park Juniors.
Schulken South of Market.	Funston Juniors.
Market Van Storage.	Western Club.
Gilmore Florist.	Amazon Theatre.
Schulken Bay Views.	Mercantile Box.
Fan Tan.	Orange Crush Midgets.
Kahn & Keville Juniors.	Bell Drugs.
Dollar Steamship Line.	Associated Oil Co.
M. J. B. Co.	Bass Heuter Paint Co.
Walworth California Co.	Zellerbach Paper Co.
Hills Bros.	Matson Navigation Co.
D. N. & E. Walters.	State Compensation.
Southern Pacific Co.	Federal Reserve Bank.
Schmidt Lithograph Co.	North Western National Ins. Co.
Transamerica Corporation.	California Packing Co.
J. A. Folger & Co.	Custom Brokers.
Pacific Gas and Electric Co.	Reeorder Publishing Co.
Coffin, Redington Co.	Haas Bros.
Fleischmann Yeast.	30th Infantry.
S. F. Post Office.	Clayburgh Bros
Delco Light.	Orange Crush.
Hale Bros.	Portola Natives.
Blum Sweets.	Margetts Rugs.
Crystal Palace Baths.	Mario Drugs.
Borreani Sheet Metal.	Porto Rican Club.
O'Brien, Sportono, Mitchell & Compagno.	People's Dairy.
Sequoia Club.	Western Meat Co.
Bernal Boosters.	Flood Jewelers.
Marvelous Marin.	Knight Cleaners.
Boldeman Chocolate Co.	Ideal Cleaners.
Mission Red Juniors.	Chas. Rosenberg.
S. F. Boys' Club, No. Beach Branch.	S. F. Boys' Club Mission Branch.
Five Mile Juniors.	Union Trust Co
Metropolitan Life Ins. Co.	Phillips & Van Orden Co.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
CALIFORNIA DISTRICT

ADDRESS REPLY TO
DISTRICT FORESTER
AND REFER TO



FERRY BUILDING
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

L
Recreation

June 30, 1929

Miss Alicia Mosgrove,
San Francisco Playground Commission,
376 City Hall,
San Francisco, California:

Dear Miss Mosgrove:

In accordance with your kind invitation, I stopped over at the San Francisco Municipal Recreation Camp for a day or so and had an excellent opportunity to investigate your entire layout at this Camp.

I was very agreeably surprised at the excellent accommodations that are furnished San Franciscans at so low a price, and consider that the camp is being excellently managed by Mr. Center. I also had an opportunity to see the good work that is being done by Miss McGreevy. She certainly keeps things moving with the old folks as well as with the children. I have visited all of the municipal recreation camps in California, and at none of them have I found a more contented lot of guests or seen better food served.

Mr. Center explained to me his views in reference to further development of the camp, and I believe that he has sized up the situation in an excellent manner. If I can be of service to your Commission in giving information or suggestions about the future development or operation of this camp, I shall be glad to do so upon request.

Very sincerely yours,

F. A. Barrett

Assistant District Forester.



The Lodge—San Francisco's Mountain Camp at Mather

OUR MOUNTAIN CAMP

OUR Mountain Camp, Margaret Maryland, San Francisco's municipal summer-recreation paradise, poises, eight motor-hours away from the famous Dome of the City Hall, on the rim of the Tuolumne river gorge at Mather in the High Sierra.

The world-famous Yosemite National Park, the city's great O'Shaughnessy dam, the Hetch Hetchy reservoir, lakes and streams, mountain forests and granite crags hold forth their welcome; the forests with encircling arms at 4500 feet elevation, the granite crags with sunflecked faces from 10,000 feet up in the eternal blue.

On foot, horseback or by motor, from the Mountain Camp the vacationist may reach with unfatigued ease the beauty-spots of this wonderland of the world—that San Francisco has rendered accessible through the happy location of its summer camp.

The Mountain Camp is an ideal vacationing place for mothers and fathers and children; and, to those in whose hearts romance and adventure are still clamoring to be heard, it offers charms unsurpassable.

RECREATION

During the five years that the Camp has been in operation the Playground Commission has continually added to its facilities for recreation and comfort, until today it stands perhaps without a peer among high-mountain camps.

There is excellent fishing in the near-by streams and lakes.

The lake at the Camp is an ideal swimming place, with a plunge by the shore provided for children and adult non-swimmers.

Horses may be rented at moderate rates for any length of time desired. Pack trips into the "back country"—with the services of guide and packers, if desired—are an always attractive feature.

Baseball, horseshoes, croquet, volley ball and table tennis are games popular with the guests. Camp-fire and general social programs are provided nightly under the direction of a competent hostess.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Established July 5, 1924, but making only temporary use of the buildings and facilities theretofore used for Hetch Hetchy construction purposes, the Mountain Camp came into full bloom the following season when the Playground Commission acquired the Yosemite Park and Curry Company Camp, adjacent to the temporary location.

Additional facilities added each year have now given the Mountain Camp a normal capacity of 150 guests, which, by use of the still available construction camp facilities, can be extended to take care of peak loads of 200 guests.

The Camp has an abundant supply of mountain water, and electric energy for lighting, heating and power.

Guests are housed in comfortable cabins that nestle among the pines, completely furnished with the exception of blankets and bed-linens, which guests are expected to supply.

The Lodge, situated in the center of camp, provides an assembly-hall with open fireplace, music facilities for entertainment, and a library for quiet reading.

Dining-room service is cafeteria style, the kitchen is modern and efficient, and the meals are wholesome, ample and appetizing.

TRANSPORTATION

For the convenience of those who do not motor to the Camp, the Playground Commission has made arrangement with the Southern Pacific and Santa Fe railroad companies and the Yellow Way Stage Company to enable guests to make the trip comfortably at a reasonable fare.

Buses at the Camp provide guests with transportation to points of interest in the vicinity, among which are: Yosemite Valley, thirty miles away; and the Muir gorge, 5000 feet deep.

The Mountain Camp is 175 miles from San Francisco, with round-trip transportation by all routes: adults, \$15.65; children, 6 to 11 years of age, \$7.85.

Rates at the Camp this year for board and lodging, three days and over, were: persons 15 years and over, \$2.00 per day; children 12 to and including 14, \$1.25 per day; children 2 to and including 11, \$1.00 per day.



Mountain Camp puzzle picture—Find the circus rider

Information regarding rates and dates of excursions to the Camp is always available at the San Francisco Playground Commission offices in the City Hall.

29,459 MEALS SUPPLIED

That the Playground Commission's hope of making the Mountain Camp a summer-vacation place where citizens of moderate means may go in continually increasing numbers is coming true is evidenced by the fact that 29,459 meals were supplied this year in the camp dining-room.

And since the Camp was made possible, and the glorious beauties of Yosemite National Park made available, both by the cooperation of the United States Forest Service, the Playground Commission most urgently requests all Camp guests strictly to observe the rules of the Forest Service, so that, by the prevention of forest fires, the matchless beauty of this unrivaled region may be preserved.



There's swimming in the lake at Mountain Camp



BEFORE AND AFTER IMPROVEMENT



Helen Wills Playground, when it was Spring Valley



Helen Wills Playground is one of the finest now

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE

THE Construction and Maintenance Department of the San Francisco Playground Commission, during the fiscal year 1928-29, met and solved a number of problems believed to be typical of problems arising in recreational work.

There was the problem presented by the abuse of apparatus, buildings, structures and other properties. This was approximately solved, it is believed, by the removal of all signs of abuse, restoration of properties to condition same as new, and application of attractive and artistic decoration.

The Department adopted the theory that if there were no initials marked or carved on available surfaces, and those surfaces were clean, and painted in an attractive manner, the appeal to the better side of the individual's nature would prevent the first mark or cut being made. Experience is substantially bearing out this theory.

The Department found that the type of baby-swings in use was not standing up under the service given. Consequently all swings were taken to the shop and strengthened in a manner that, it is believed, will render them of service for many years without repairs or replacement.

PLAYGROUND SLIDES IMPROVED

Playground slides also offered a problem to be solved. It was found that the commercial type in use was made of light-weight maple in short lengths, which tended to develop faults. So that problem was carried to the shop, with the result that the Department is now making its own satisfactory wooden slide-beds, and awaiting the time when stainless-steel sheets will be available at a price that will permit of their use.

Steel picket fences, of which the Playground Department has some 5000 lineal feet, was found to offer a painting and rusting problem, which could not be met while the square metal pickets remained, as they were, merely spaced in channel iron runners. The shape of these runners did not permit of thorough cleaning or painting of the underside. It was decided to replace the channel iron runners with a square bar and to braze the pickets to this bar and in turn to braze the bars to fence-posts, using the oxy-acetylene process. This was done and has proved satisfactory.

With these beginnings, the Department during the year materially extended its operations, until it was fabricating hundreds of articles, ranging from teeter-boards to swords, hoops, toadstools and even incense-burners.

LARGER AREAS ARE TURFED

The problem of surfacing larger areas used for playing was resolved in favor of turfing, which, though initially very expensive, was found to be ideal for San Francisco playgrounds.

Areas too small for the maintenance of turf are still a vexing problem. So far, the Department has found a fairly sandy-loam surface to be the best, though possessing a number of disadvantages.

Experience with asphalt areas, dirt areas and turfed areas led the Department to conclude that surfaces at less than 2% grade are likely to be unusable for considerable lengths of time after rain or heavy fog. The policy is being pursued of developing fields at grades that will permit asphalt areas to be used at least part of every day in the year, and turfed areas practically without interruption.

In the development of many areas special problems were met and solved, as they arose, to the satisfaction of the Department. Some of these special problems were:

SOME SPECIAL PROBLEMS

St. Mary's Park. The Playground Commission bought a piece of ground containing 6.81 acres and was presented with 2.78 acres, adjacent to the purchased area, which consisted mainly of a deep ravine that had to be filled in. The 80,000 cubic yards necessary for the fill was obtained from the Bernal Cut.

Douglass. The problem that presented itself at Douglass Playground consisted of converting the old Gray Bros. quarry site at 26th and Douglass streets into a play-field. This property consisted of three blocks, the lower side being a flat-bottom quarry hole having vertical or overhanging rock walls to a height of 120 feet, offering an excavation problem.

This problem was solved by sloping the vertical walls to a grade that would permit the planting of shrubs and trees. This was done, and the area promises to be exceedingly attractive as a combination park and playground.

HELEN WILLS PLAYGROUND

Helen Wills. The development of the Helen Wills Playground required the grading down of additional property, a sand hill, to the level of the former playground and the construction of a supporting wall under adjacent structures that were left above grade. Estimates of \$5000 for the job were submitted. The Department completed the work at a cost of little more than fifty per cent of the estimates.

Michaelangelo. This property consisted of a badly-decayed temporary school building on an area 137 feet square. The Board of Education offered the property either with or without the building. The Superintendent of Playgrounds had expressed a desire for a building with large floor space to be used as a community center. The building was rehabilitated and the lot leveled and asphalted.

The climate being exceedingly mild in this locality, the field is lighted at night, and the building is serving as a community center. A new building of equal floor space would have cost \$55,000. The entire cost of the project was less than \$25,000.

Potrero Hill. This area, consisting of a rocky point on a hill and sloping in three directions, is being improved by cut-and-fill and will be finished next year.

Glen Park. The effectiveness of this play area was greatly diminished by an intersecting creek. A large storm sewer was laid in the bed of the creek and the area filled to level. The resultant area was turfed and is now used for baseball and general play. A volley ball court was also constructed.

26 BUILDINGS WRECKED

Ocean View. This area is being developed in sections as money is available. Twenty-six badly depreciated buildings have been wrecked and usable material salvaged. Three good buildings were sold. Two asphalt-surfaced tennis courts and one basketball court were constructed and a centrally-located old building altered to serve temporarily as a field house.

This field when completed will be practically a double field, that is, it will have two major ball fields, two junior ball fields, two units of two tennis and one basketball courts, and an adequate field house with large rooms and an attractive mothers' and babies' section.

Excelsior. This area required a new building and asphalt courts. A one-story building was erected having an auditorium 25 by 50 feet, stage, man director's office, woman director's office, kitchen, club-room, and caretaker's room in the basement. One tennis court, one basketball court, and a volley ball court were provided, these being asphalt surfaced.

West Portal. This area was initially condemned for the West Portal of the Twin Peaks Tunnel, and consisted of an uneven area of sand which had been used as a dumping-ground for concrete and other refuse. An asphalt-surfaced tennis court was provided at the upper end and the remainder of the area attractively shrubbed.

Bay View. This area presented only the problem of windsweep. An area ten feet in width along the western property line was planted in acacias as a windbreak. A baseball field was provided up to the point of turfing, and wooden backstop and bleachers erected.

Sacramento Street Building. This building had been used as an indoor basketball court and was in a bad state of repair. It was renovated, painted and improved, and is now being used as a workshop for the Dramatic Department.

CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS

Buildings erected.....	4	Handball Courts paved.....	2
Buildings rehabilitated.....	18	Baccí Ball Courts rebuilt.....	4
Buildings repaired.....	2	Horseshow Courts built.....	19
Buildings painted.....	25	Fields planted in turf.....	5
Buildings sand-blasted.....	1	Trees and shrubs planted.....	10,250
Buildings wrecked.....	38	Pipe lines installed—lineal ft.....	22,460
Buildings sold.....	5	Drainage Systems installed.....	7
Grounds placed in operation.....	7	Bleachers installed—seats.....	900
Buildings underpinned.....	3	Fences painted—lineal ft.....	6,007
Floors replaced.....	2	Retaining Walls built—cubic yds.....	3,215
Floors covered with linoleum.....	19	Excavations—cubic yds.....	150,800
Large swings erected.....	9	Fills made—cubic yds.....	230,000
Baby-Swings erected.....	9	Finished grades—sq ft.....	891,095
Circular Traveling-Rings erected.....	6	Heating Systems installed.....	7
Teeters, 3 boards, erected.....	9	Storm Sewers constructed.....	1
Flying-Rings erected.....	1	Trees removed.....	128
Traveling-Rings, longitudinal.....	2	Camp Storerooms built.....	1
Horizontal Bars erected.....	2	Camp Cabins built.....	25
Devil Slides.....	1	Camp Washrooms built.....	3
Tennis posts replaced—sets.....	21	Camp Sewer Systems constructed.....	1
Fence, chain-link, repaired—sq. ft.....	1,147,020	Camp Septic Tanks constructed.....	1
Fence, steel-picket, rebuilt—lineal ft.....	5,757	Lumber salvaged—board ft.....	100,000
Tennis Courts paved.....	16	Drinking Fountains installed.....	12
Basketball Courts paved.....	10	Running Tracks.....	1
Volley Ball Courts paved.....	5	Baseball Backstops constructed.....	3
Tether Tennis installed.....	7	Light Fixtures installed.....	72
Paddle Tennis installed.....	2	Sanitary Fixtures replaced.....	22

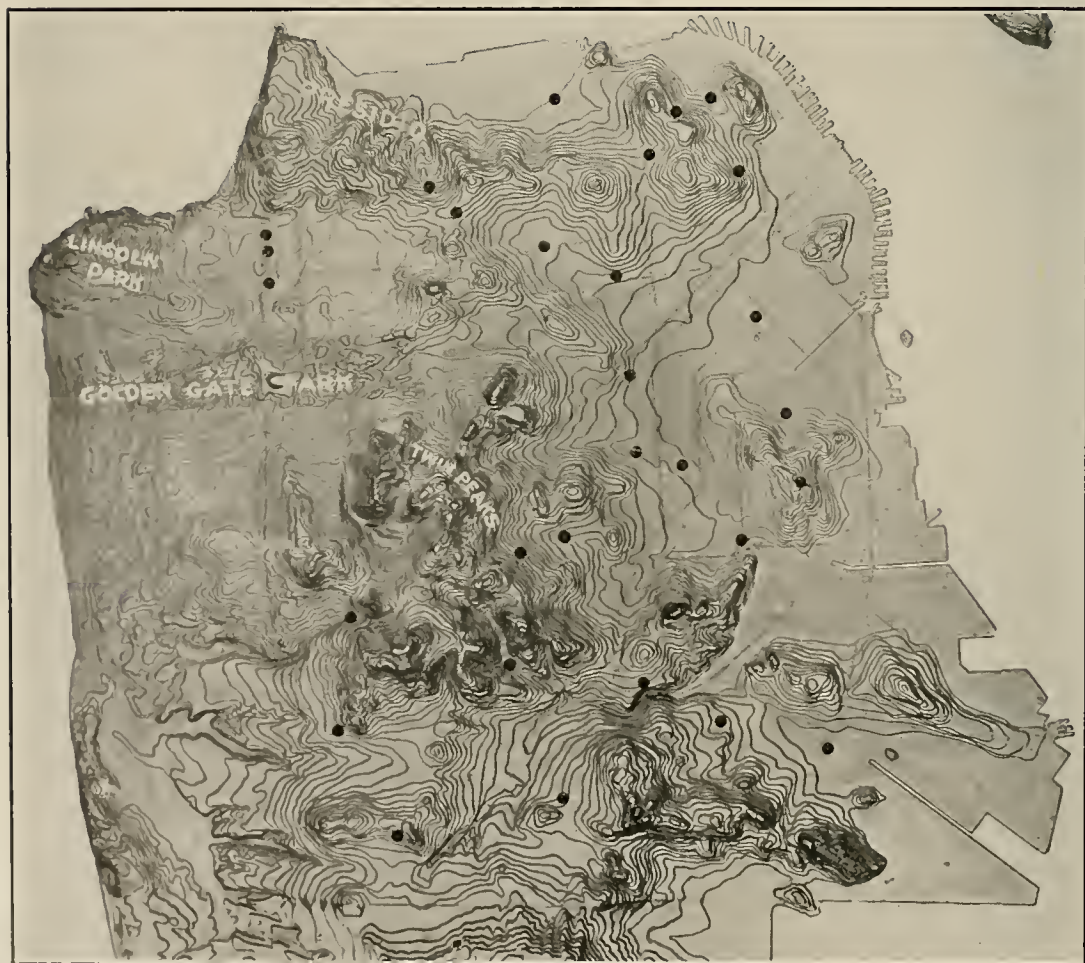
PRODUCTS MADE IN DEPARTMENT SHOP

Supply Lockers.....	35	Office Tables, oak.....	4
Tennis Court Lockers.....	8	Playground Director's Cabinet, oak.....	1
Cabinet Lockers.....	32	Queen's Throne, Dramatic Department.....	3
Inside Benches—oak, with backs.....	6	Toadstools.....	2
Kindergarten Benches, interior.....	42	Incense-Burners.....	2
Kindergarten Tables, interior.....	36	Columns, for candle-sticks.....	4
Outside Benches, with backs.....	150	Spears.....	16
Solid Bench, set in ground—lineal ft.....	500	Hoops.....	27
Benches, with no backs—16 feet.....	36	Swords.....	27
New flag-poles installed.....	8	Stage-Settings, including 1 Gothic window and 2 sets of arches.....	1
Baby-Swings.....	108	Cart.....	1
Large swings.....	72	Doll-Carrier.....	1
Teeter-Boards.....	46	Manger.....	1
Small Slide, single.....	5	Old Oaken Buckets, with well houses.....	1
Triple Slide.....	16	Baby-Stools.....	6
Jack-Tables.....	16	Baby-Slide.....	1
Basketball Goals.....	40	Octagon Display-Stand.....	1
Screens, for sand-box.....	12	Octagon Sand-Box.....	1
Jumping-Stands—pairs.....	28	Small Arch, with gate and 60 lineal feet pattern fence.....	1
Spring-Boards.....	1	Tables, for sewing, etc.....	5
Bean Bag Boards.....	40	Model of 1st Floor of Auditorium.....	1
Bulletin Boards, on stand with sash.....	22	Wood Working Benches.....	6
Bulletin Boards, no sash.....	28	Portable Stairs—sets.....	2
May-Poles.....	14	Kindergarten Seats, with solid legs.....	16
Christmas Tree Stands.....	45	Signs, of various description.....	40
Baseball Diamond Bases.....	22	Stepladders—8 ft.....	8
Wood Sand-Boxes.....	4	Stepladders—6 ft.....	8
Concrete Sand-Boxes.....	5		
Soccer Ball Goals—pairs.....	12		

THE PLAYGROUNDS

PLAYGROUNDS

ARGONNE—18th avenue, between Geary and Anza streets.
 BAY VIEW—3rd and Armstrong streets.
 CHINESE—Sacramento street, between Stockton and Waverly.
 DOUGLASS—26th and Douglass streets.
 EXCELSIOR—Russia and Madrid streets.
 FATHER CROWLEY—7th and Harrison streets.
 FOLSOM—21st and Folsom streets.
 FUNSTON—Chestnut and Buchanan streets.
 GLEN PARK—Chenry and Elk streets.
 HAMILTON—Geary and Scott streets.
 HELEN WILLS—Broadway and Larkin streets.
 JACKSON—17th and Carolina streets.
 JAMES LICK—25th and Noe streets.
 JAMES ROLPH, JR.—26th and Potrero avenue.
 JULIUS KAHN—Presidio Res., 1 block below Jackson, between Spruce and Locust.
 LEVI STRAUSS—14th and Valencia streets.
 MARGARET S. HAYWARD—Golden Gate avenue and Gough street.
 MICHAELANGELO—Greenwich street, between Jones and Leavenworth streets.
 MISSION—19th and Angelica streets.
 NORTH BEACH—Lombard and Mason streets.
 OCEAN VIEW—Plymouth avenue and Lobos street.
 PORTOLA—Hamilton and Silliman streets.
 PRESIDIO HEIGHTS—Clay, near Walnut street.
 RICHMOND No. 1—18th avenue, between Lake and California streets.
 RICHMOND No. 2—18th avenue, between California and Clement streets.
 WEST PORTAL—Ulloa and Lenox Way.



Topographic map of San Francisco, spotted to show locations of playgrounds

SCHOOLYARD PLAYGROUNDS

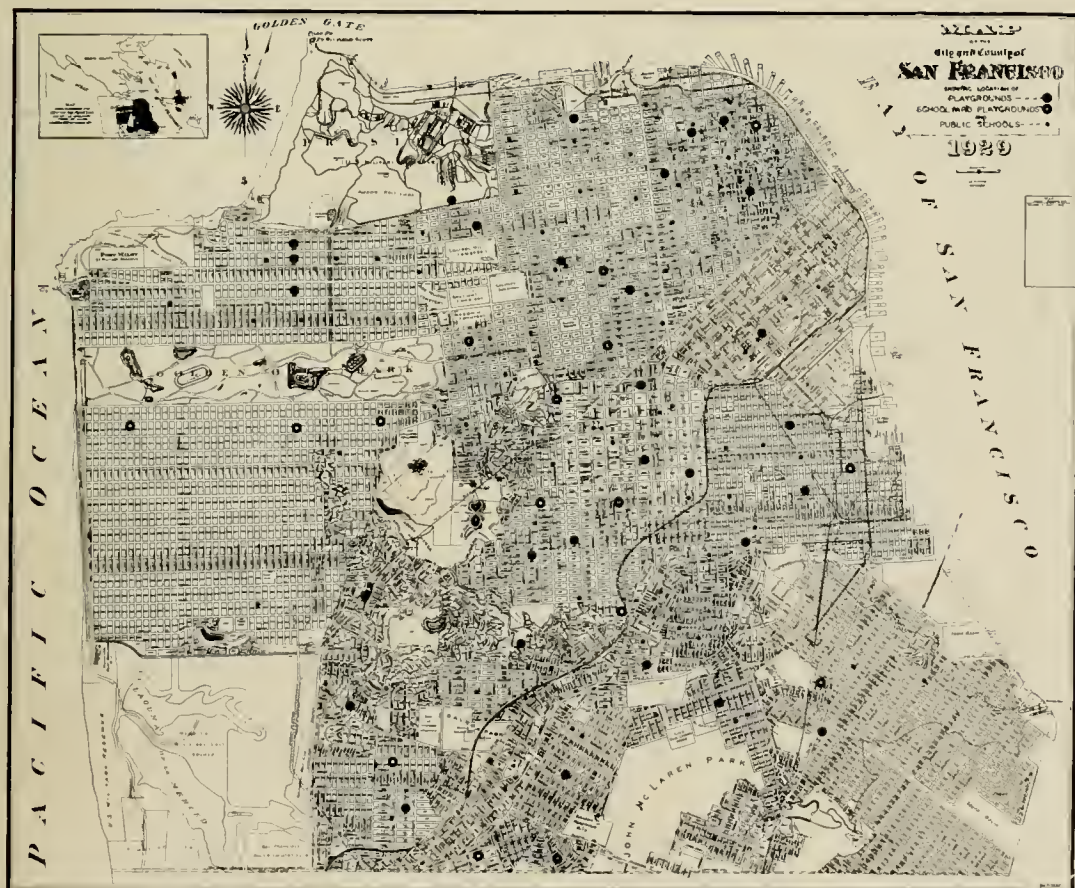
ALVARADO—Douglass and 22nd streets.
ANDREW JACKSON—Hayes street, between Cole and Clayton streets.
BAY VIEW—Bay View and Pomona street.
DETENTION HOME—150 Otis street.
EDISON—Dolores and 22nd streets.
FAIRMOUNT—Chenery and Randall streets.
FARRAGUT—Holloway avenue and Capitol street.
FRANCIS SCOTT KEY—42nd avenue and Irving street.
GARFIELD—Kearny and Filbert streets.
GUADALUPE—Cordova and Prague streets.
IRVING M. SCOTT—22nd and Tennessee streets.
JEFFERSON—19th avenue, between Irving and Judah streets.
JOHN MUIR—Page and Webster streets.
LAGUNA HONDA—7th avenue, between Irving and Judah streets.
LONGFELLOW—Lowell and Morse streets.
McKINLEY—14th and Castro streets.
RAPHAEL WEILL—Buchanan and O'Farrell streets.

OPEN-AIR SWIMMING-POOLS

MISSION—19th and Angelica streets.
NORTH BEACH—Lombard and Mason streets.

PLAYGROUND SITES

BALBOA TERRACE—Ocean avenue and Aptos Way.
POTRERO HILL—22nd and Missouri streets.
ST. MARY'S PARK—Creseent and Agnon avenues.



Block map of San Francisco, spotted to show locations of playgrounds, schoolyard playgrounds, and public schools

PLAYGROUND AND CAMP ATTENDANCE

FISCAL YEAR 1928-1929

REGULAR PLAYGROUNDS

ARGONNE.....	74,757
BAY VIEW.....	13,093
CHINESE.....	146,525
DOUGLASS.....	25,132
EXCELSIOR.....	105,999
FATHER CROWLEY.....	521,799
FOLSOM.....	69,750
FUNSTON.....	318,493
GLEN PARK.....	58,601
HAMILTON.....	290,295
HELEN WILLS.....	66,807
JACKSON.....	117,445
JAMES LICK.....	63,588
JAMES ROLPH, JR.....	167,969
JULIUS KAHN.....	135,026
LEVI STRAUSS.....	33,010
MARGARET S. HAYWARD.....	189,300
MICHAELANGELO.....	16,243
MISSION.....	172,884
NORTH BEACH.....	352,121
OCEAN VIEW.....	157,412
PORTOLA.....	88,469
PRESIDIO HEIGHTS.....	42,090
RICHMOND No. 1.....	75,326
RICHMOND No. 2.....	8,734
WEST PORTAL.....	58,893

3,369,761

SCHOOLYARD PLAYGROUNDS

ALVARADO.....	31,115
ANDREW JACKSON.....	19,845
BAY VIEW.....	23,173
DETENTION HOME.....	10,106
EDISON.....	36,689
FAIRMOUNT.....	37,482
FARRAGUT.....	20,429
FRANCIS SCOTT KEY.....	20,133
GARFIELD.....	16,277
GUADALUPE.....	20,217
IRVING M. SCOTT.....	16,369
JEFFERSON.....	20,552
JOHN MUIR.....	25,346
LAGUNA HONDA.....	13,690
LONGFELLOW.....	24,735
McKINLEY.....	25,590
RAPHAEL WEILL.....	8,609

370,357

OPEN-AIR SWIMMING-POOLS

MISSION.....	26,172
NORTH BEACH.....	14,943

41,115

MOUNTAIN CAMP

MOUNTAIN CAMP.....	1,275
--------------------	-------

1,275

GRAND TOTAL.....3,782,508

UNIT OF ATTENDANCE and COST OF ATHLETIC SUPPLIES

AT the beginning of the fiscal year 1928-29 the San Francisco Playground Commission determined that a new system of checking attendance at the playgrounds should be inaugurated, whereby it would be possible more accurately to ascertain the relation between play-participation and cost of athletic supplies issued to the playgrounds.

Upon investigation it was ascertained that the methods of checking attendance on playgrounds throughout the country were so variable as to preclude the determination of any standardized procedure. Consequently the Commission decided to originate a method of its own that, it felt, would be logical and fair, not only to the San Francisco playgrounds but also for purposes of comparison with attendance records of playgrounds in other cities.

ATTENDANCE "YARD-STICK"

The initial step in designing this method was to determine a "yard-stick," or unit of attendance; and it was decided that the presence of an individual on a playground, while it was officially open, for a period of two to three hours should be the unit of attendance. On October 1, 1928, the comparison between attendance and cost was begun.

Directions for determining attendance by the new method were then issued to playground directors, from which the following paragraphs are quoted:

"The playground day is divided loosely into four parts: the morning, from 10 to 12; the afternoon, from 12 to 3 and from 3 to 6; the evening, from 6 to 10. Whenever the playground is officially open during any of these periods one count shall be taken at the time that the largest attendance is present during that period. In other words, it is designed that there shall be one count in the morning, two in the afternoon, and one in the evening.

"A director making a count shall count individually every person in attendance. However, in order that the director will not spend too much time in making the count, it is specified that a count made on Funston Playground, containing 12 acres, may be limited to ten minutes. At the end of the day all of these counts shall be added together and the total figure shall be the attendance for the playgrounds for that day."

A distinction was observed between spectators and play-participants, only the latter being considered in the attendance records used in the unit-cost computations. Attendance reports were directed to be sent to the office weekly, on Mondays, and there checked, recorded and graphed. The following is now the established routine:

REQUISITIONS IN TRIPLICATE

When the director sends in the weekly report, he or she makes requisition, in triplicate, for athletic or other supplies, the original on white, and the copies on pink and yellow paper. The white and pink forms accompany the attendance report to the office.

Each playground is supplied with a dunnage-bag, upon which the name of the playground is stenciled, and, at the storeroom, on Thursdays, the supplies requisitioned are placed in the bags for delivery on Friday. The pink slip, which accompanies delivery, is rechecked by the playground director against possible errors and is returned to the office the following Monday, together with attendance report for the week and new requisition for additional supplies, if needed.

At the time the new system was put into operation the central storeroom was placed on a constant-inventory basis.

By compiling, weekly, the cost of supplies requisitioned by the various playgrounds, and checking the attendance weekly, a close contact was kept with the playgrounds and the necessary data for preparation of Chart VI, appearing on page 63 was obtained.

PLAYGROUND SUPPLIES

SAN FRANCISCANS, who observed the children at play on the city's playgrounds during the fiscal year 1928-29, may not realize, perhaps, that those children played a total of 9,728,855 hours, and that week after week during the year recreational supplies were being worn out and had to be replaced by the Playground Commission.

Take, for illustration, baseball bats. The Playground Commission supplied 1852 regulation indoor and outdoor baseball bats during 1928-29. The bats averaged 33 inches in length. If stood end on end up in the air, those baseball bats would have towered into the clouds 10 feet higher than 17 times the height of our City Hall Dome.

Likewise, the Playground Commission furnished 350 tennis rackets to the playgrounds. Each racket had 42 feet of catgut, a total of 14,700 feet of catgut; enough if tied to a balloon to permit observers in the balloon-basket to look disdainfully down from 199 feet above the top of Mt. Whitney, although Mt. Whitney is the highest of the mountain peaks in California.

Some of the other recreational supplies sent to the playgrounds during the year are also worthy of note:

Regulation and indoor baseballs.....	6125
Handballs, basketballs, sponge balls.....	1140
Tennis Balls.....	2681
Footballs, volley balls, soccer balls.....	547
Nets, for tennis, volley ball, basketball.....	91
Checker Boards and Checker Sets.....	72
Jump-Rope, total feet.....	900
Mitts, for catchers, first base, fielders.....	70
Catchers' Masks.....	15
Sets of Quoits.....	9
Croquet Sets.....	8
Boxes of Jacks.....	25
Horseshoe Sets.....	7
Whistles.....	119

INTERPRETING THE CHARTS

CHART I. LAND ACQUIRED AND OPERATED

Chart I indicates in graphic form the number of acres acquired by the Board of Supervisors for playground purposes to the end of the fiscal year 1924-25, and by the Playground Commission during the past four years; the number of acres placed in operation yearly since the Commission was created; and the number of acres of schoolyard playgrounds supervised during non-school hours since 1911 to the present.

At the present time the Playground Commission owns 119.78 acres, of which 90.47 acres are in operation and 29.31 acres in process of being brought into operation. There are 17.57 acres of supervised schoolyard playgrounds and 0.18 of an acre used for recreation by children, at the Detention Home, awaiting action by the Juvenile Court.

It will be noted that after a period of ten years of inactivity, beginning with 1921-22, the curves move rapidly upward. Since 1921-22, it may be observed, the area of the playgrounds has been approximately doubled.

CHART II. LAND OWNED AND LAND NEEDED

Despite the rapid growth of playground acreage during the past seven years, San Francisco is far short of providing sufficient playground accommodations for the children of the city.

Chart II discloses that San Francisco is barely at the half-way point in supplying playground requirements. This graph is based upon the conclusion of the Playground and Recreation Association of America, arrived at after several years of intensive research, that 150 square feet of play-space is the minimum that should be provided for each child.

According to the attendance records of the Department of Education, instead of the 119.78 present playground acreage, the total should be slightly in excess of 231 acres to provide this minimum of play-space for public school children alone. Since

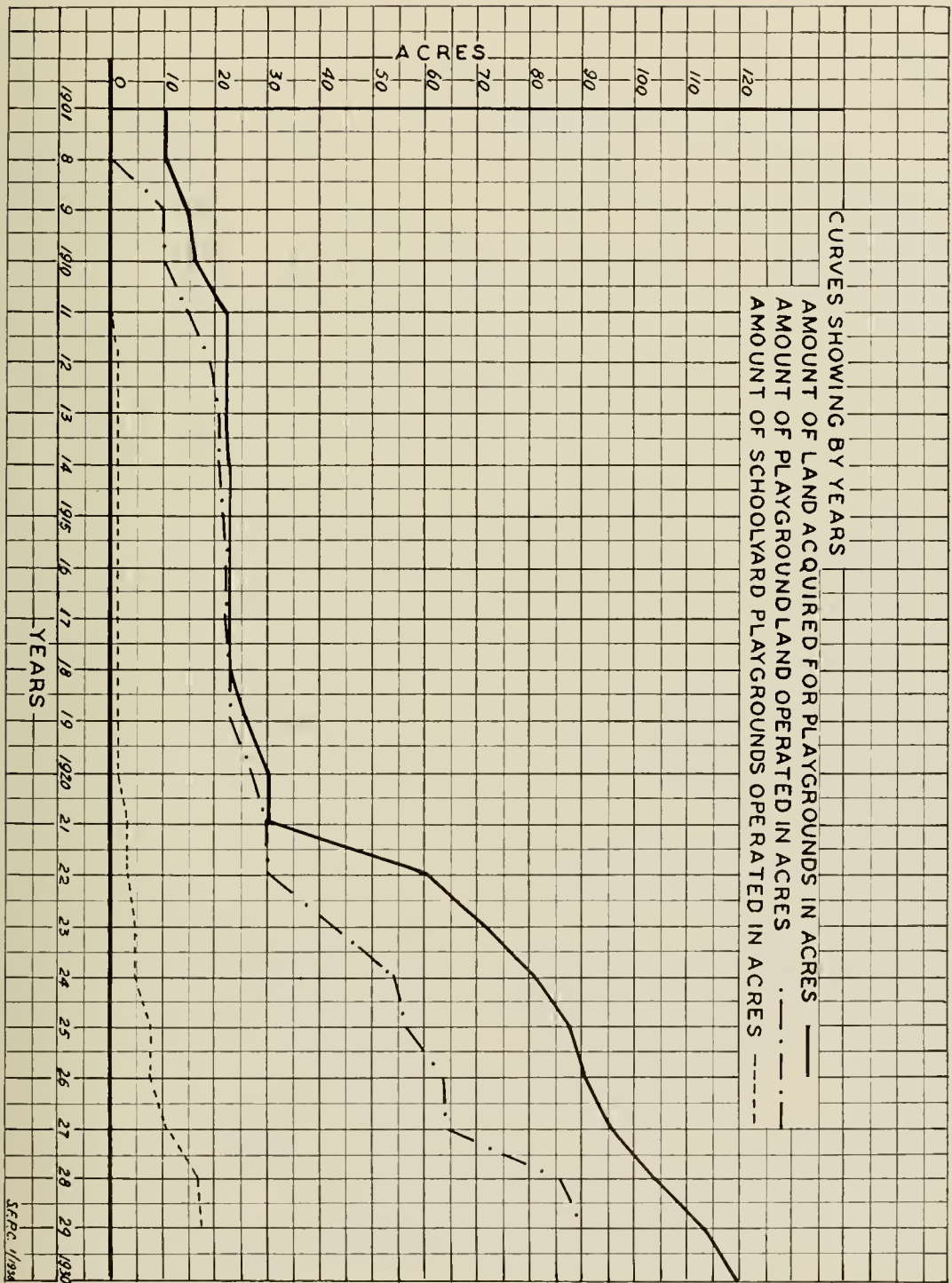


CHART I—LAND ACQUIRED AND OPERATED

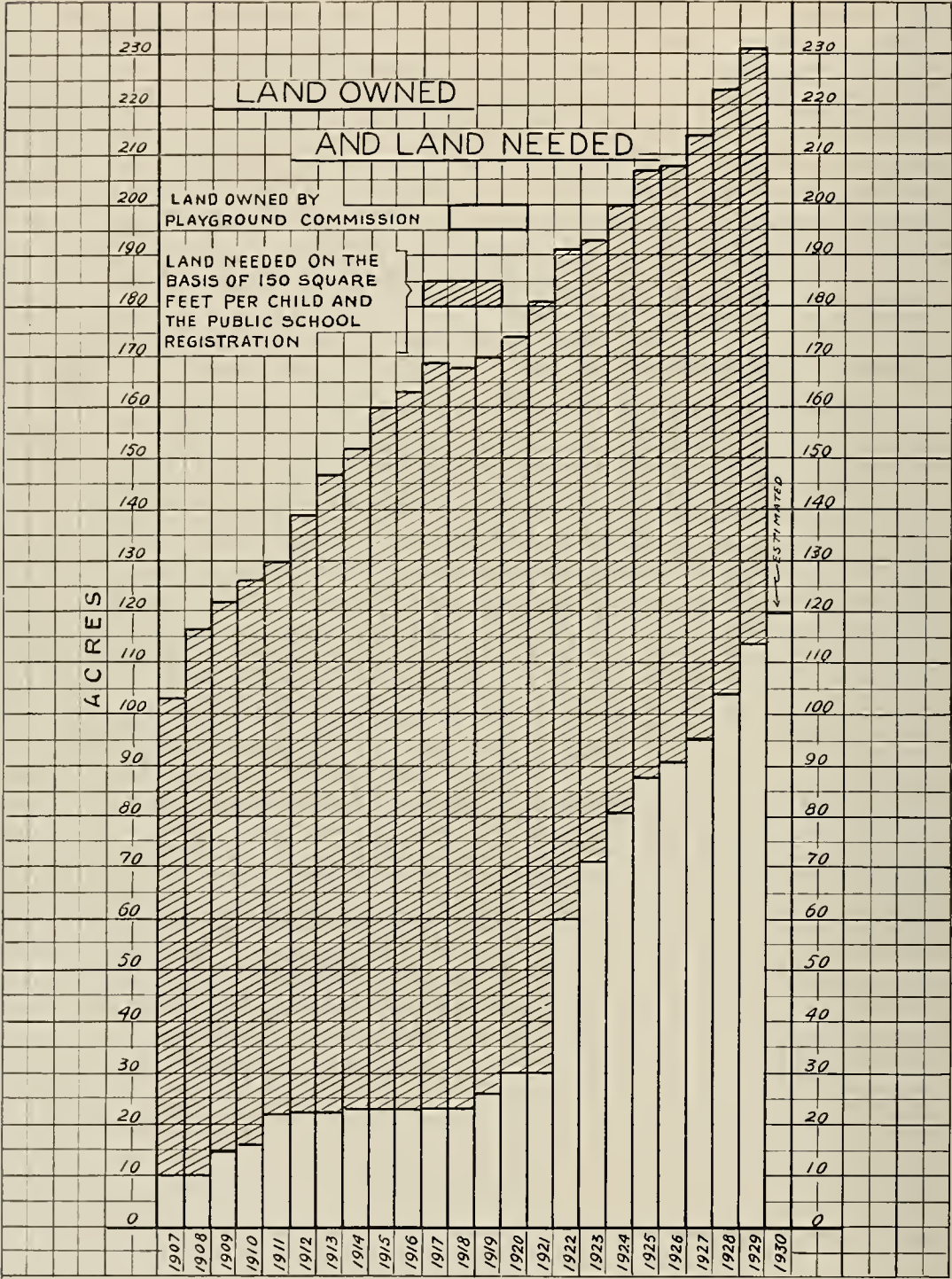


CHART II—LAND OWNED AND LAND NEEDED

statistics show that approximately 20 per cent of San Francisco children are attending private or parochial schools, the graph might properly show 259 acres as the efficiency point for San Francisco playgrounds.

Allowing for an average increase in child population, it is estimated that the Playground Commission should, even after reaching the 259-acre point, add not less than 5.5 acres annually to the playground areas of the city.

Since 1920-21, the Playground Commission has added 89.68 acres, an average of 9.96 acres per year. Since 1907, the year the Commission was created, total acreage acquired, 119.78, sets the yearly average, for the entire period, at approximately 5 acres per year.

In noting that San Francisco is only at the half-way mark, it must be taken into consideration that the Playground Commission started off in 1907 approximately 100 acres behind.

The Commission is convinced that were a bond issue authorized for acquisition and development of 100 acres of additional playgrounds the city would be placed in an excellent position and, out of revenues, would be able to take care of the future.

CHART III. PLAYGROUND ATTENDANCE

Chart III shows the attendance on the San Francisco playgrounds by fiscal years since 1909-10, when attendance records were first compiled. The effect of participation in the World War, it will be noted, was a noticeable falling-off in playground attendance. The decrease of 325,000 showed that even the children of the country were affected by the state of the public mind.

For the next four years another period of rapid growth is noticed, followed by two years of decreasing attendance, which amounted to approximately 62,500. This decline was the result of department economies, made necessary to get back on the right side of the ledger after a period of overzealous expenditures in acquiring land and building playgrounds during 1918-23.

In 1924-25 a Charter amendment was voted by the people of San Francisco allowing the Playground Commission 5 to 7 cents in the tax rate. This materially increased funds available for playground use. With more playgrounds and more playground facilities, attendance began to leap by millions until, during the past fiscal year 1928-29, the largest attendance yet recorded, 3,891,542, was reached on school and department playgrounds.

CHART IV. CASH APPROPRIATIONS

Chart IV shows the appropriations from year to year, the curve moving slowly upward, except for the war years and period of adjustment, until 1924-25, when, by the Charter amendment authorizing 5 to 7 cents in the tax rate, the Board of Supervisors allowed 5 cents in the tax rate, thereby approximately doubling the income of the Department. With the maximum rate allowed for 1928-29, the Department's income reached its highest point.

By comparison of Charts III and IV it becomes convincingly manifest that attendance growth sharply reacts to increase in expenditure of funds. The apparent exception in the curves of the two charts, during 1923-25, is explained by the enforced economies referred to in the explanation of Chart III.

CHART V. NON-ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

Chart V discloses that non-athletic activities are an important factor in playground consideration. The chart is self-explanatory except perhaps the relatively small showing made by adults. This is due to the fact that, until 1928-29, the available facilities were inadequate even for juvenile use and adult participation was not encouraged. During this year, however, opening of community center playgrounds made it possible for the Commission to extend a welcoming hand to adults.

CHART VI. UNIT-COST ATTENDANCE SUPPLIES

Chart VI is designed to show the relation between cost of athletic supplies and attendance on the playgrounds. Involved in its preparation was the inauguration of an entirely new system of attendance-recording on the San Francisco playgrounds.

Explanation of the new system and its relation to cost-attendance is contained in the article, "Unit of Attendance and Cost of Athletic Supplies," appearing on page 55.

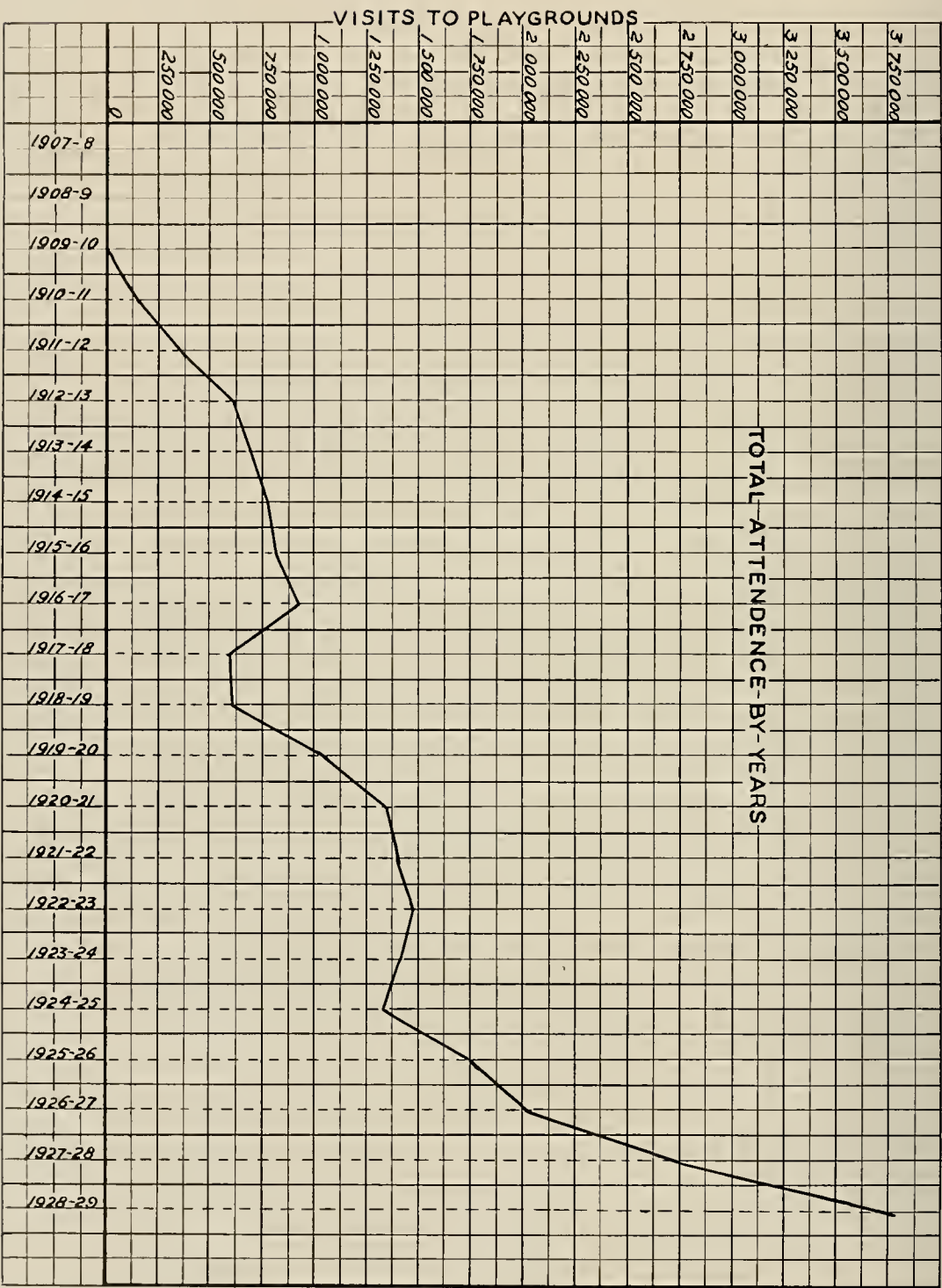


CHART III—PLAYGROUND ATTENDANCE 1909-1929

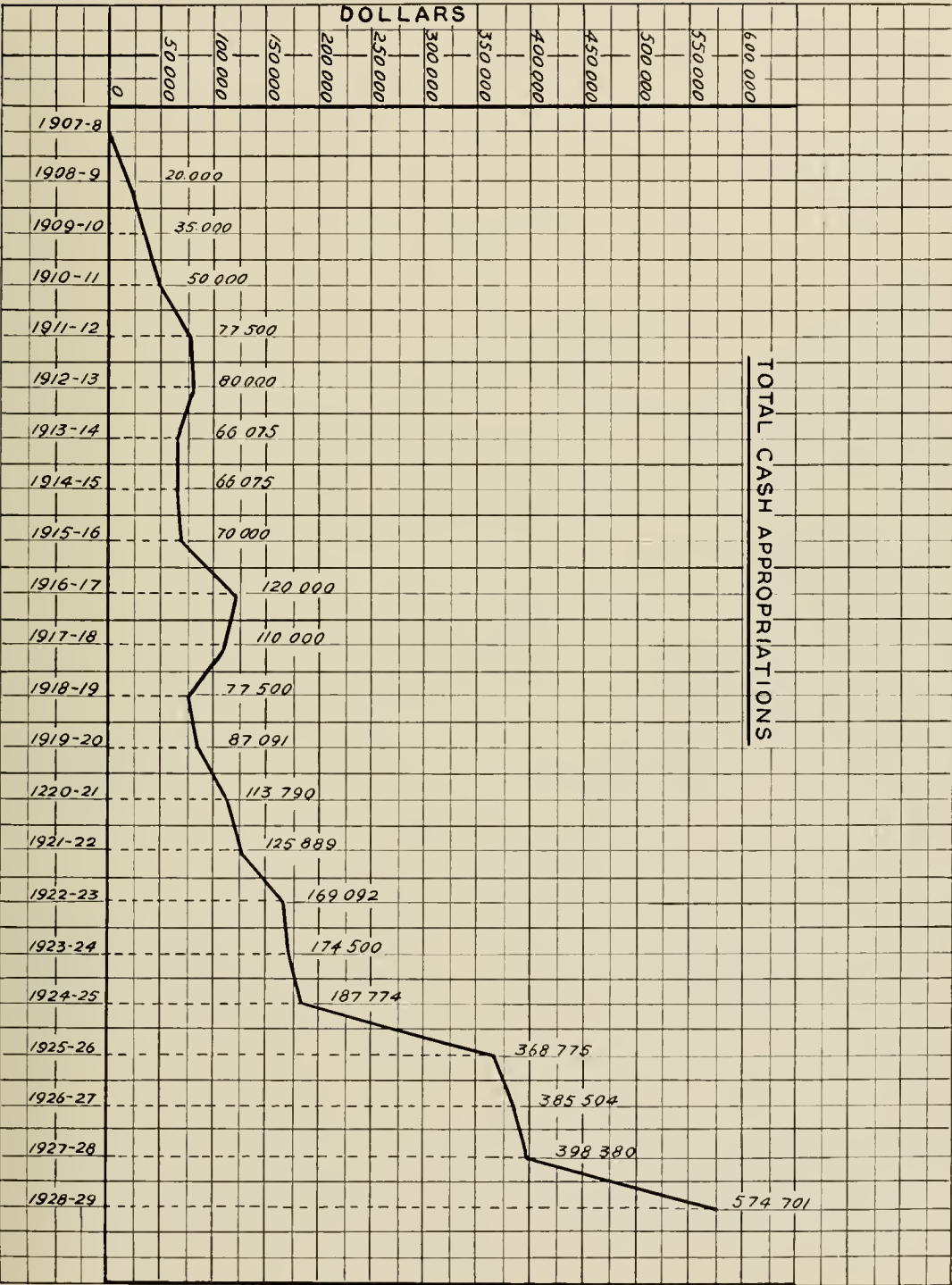


CHART IV—APPROPRIATIONS 1907-1929

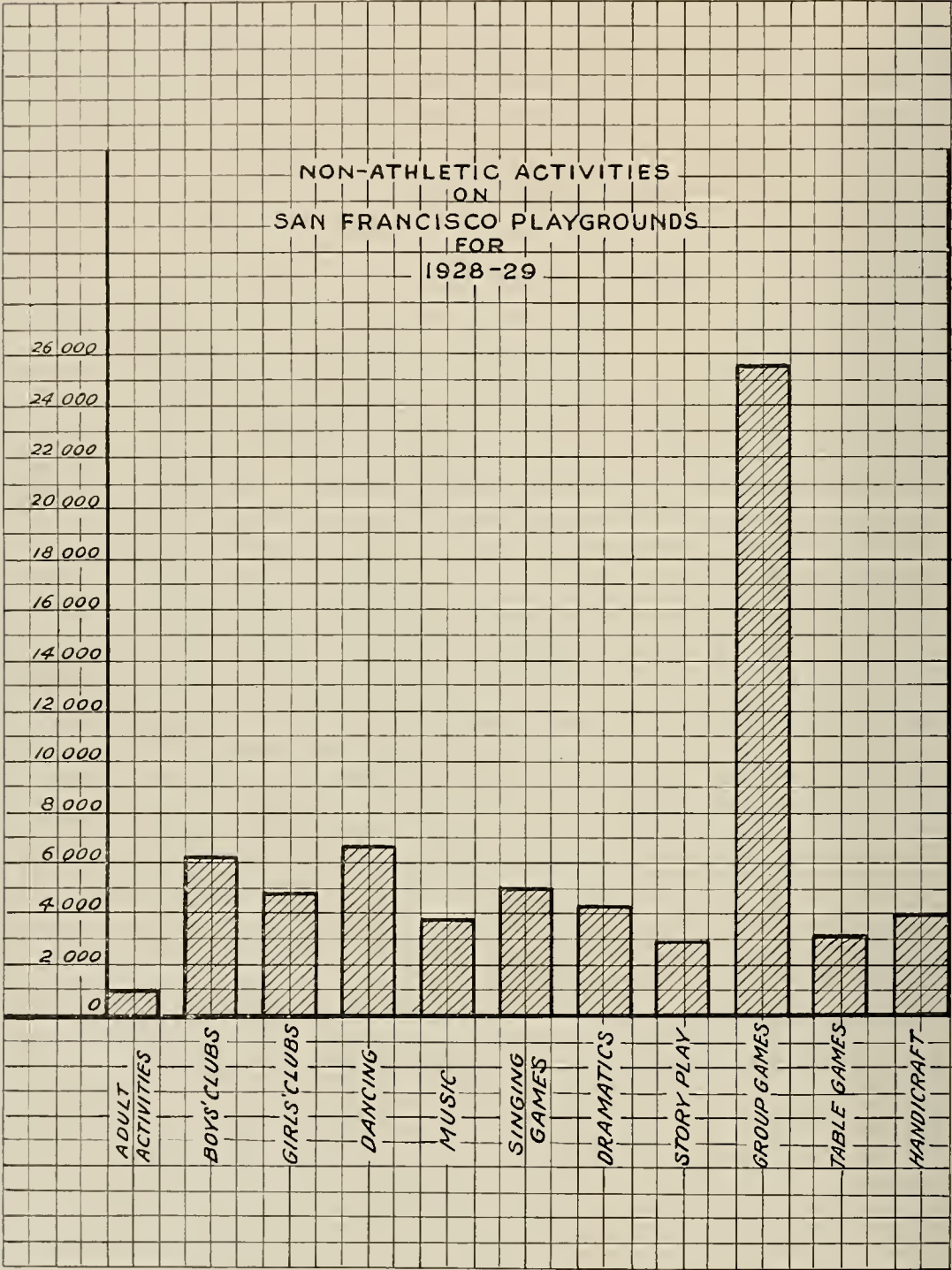


CHART V—NON-ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES 1928-29

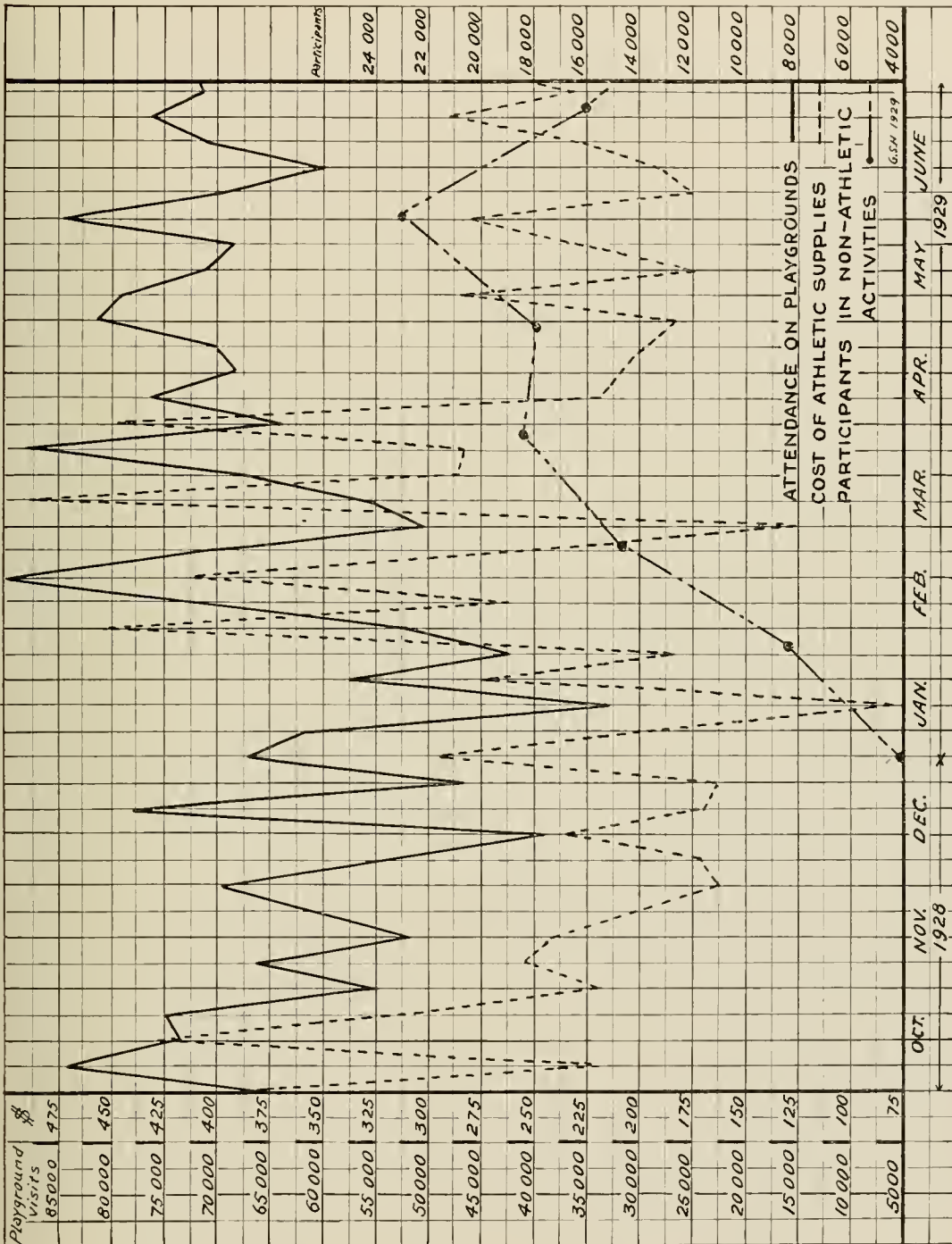


CHART VI—UNIT-COST ATTENDANCE SUPPLIES

ACCOUNTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 1928-1929

The Budget Appropriation and Moneys Received by the Department were disbursed as follows:

RECEIPTS

APPROPRIATION 1928-1929.....	\$544,885.04
BAL. APPROPRIATION 1927-1928.....	3,322.89
SWIMMING RECEIPTS.....	351.55
CAMP RECEIPTS.....	10,540.80
REFUNDS.....	252.80
SPECIAL APPROPRIATION for DOUGLASS PLAYGROUND.....	14,876.30
AUCTION SALE OF HOUSES.....	3,795.00
CANCELLATION OF DEMANDS.....	665.37
BAL. OF STORES ACCOUNT 1927-1928.....	13,690.88
DEFICIT, due to decrease in estimated tax receipts, thereby lessening playground appropriation.....	5,465.30

\$597,845.93

DISBURSEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION.....	\$ 49,146.46
ARGONNE PLAYGROUND.....	6,150.96
BAY VIEW PLAYGROUND.....	11,528.93
CHINESE PLAYGROUND.....	6,230.88
DOUGLASS PLAYGROUND.....	24,712.45
EXCELSIOR PLAYGROUND.....	12,025.47
FATHER CROWLEY PLAYGROUND.....	24,600.29
FOLSOM PLAYGROUND.....	5,403.04
FUNSTON PLAYGROUND.....	20,869.53
GLEN PARK PLAYGROUND.....	20,176.63
HAMILTON PLAYGROUND.....	15,459.75
HELEN WILLS PLAYGROUND.....	48,079.83
JACKSON PLAYGROUND.....	14,709.68
JAMES LICK PLAYGROUND.....	5,874.54
JAMES ROLPH, JR. PLAYGROUND.....	14,601.71
JULIUS KAHN PLAYGROUND.....	7,320.20
LEVI STRAUSS PLAYGROUND.....	3,529.43
MARGARET S. HAYWARD PLAYGROUND.....	13,520.26
MICHAELANGELO PLAYGROUND.....	23,239.52
MISSION PLAYGROUND.....	12,017.23
NORTH BEACH PLAYGROUND.....	17,708.69
OCEAN VIEW PLAYGROUND.....	46,564.92
PORTOLA PLAYGROUND.....	8,798.68
PRESIDIO HEIGHTS PLAYGROUND.....	5,742.73
RICHMOND, No. 1 PLAYGROUND.....	5,896.82
RICHMOND, No. 2 PLAYGROUND.....	1,244.82
WEST PORTAL PLAYGROUND.....	5,893.23
ALVARADO SCHOOLYARD PLAYGROUND.....	1,313.90
ANDREW JACKSON SCHOOLYARD PLAYGROUND.....	1,104.06
BAY VIEW SCHOOLYARD PLAYGROUND.....	1,413.76
DETENTION HOME PLAYGROUND.....	998.15
EDISON SCHOOLYARD PLAYGROUND.....	1,512.08
FAIRMOUNT SCHOOLYARD PLAYGROUND.....	1,669.33
FARRAGUT SCHOOLYARD PLAYGROUND.....	1,349.10
FRANCIS SCOTT KEY PLAYGROUND.....	1,360.35
GARFIELD PLAYGROUND.....	1,220.03
GUADALUPE PLAYGROUND.....	1,102.86
IRVING M. SCOTT.....	1,307.19
JEFFERSON PLAYGROUND.....	1,131.57
JOHN MUIR PLAYGROUND.....	1,144.43
LAGUNA HONDA PLAYGROUND.....	1,057.39
LONGFELLOW PLAYGROUND.....	1,158.54
McKINLEY PLAYGROUND.....	1,275.75
RAPHAEL WEILL PLAYGROUND.....	331.40
MISSION POOL.....	5,083.44
NORTH BEACH POOL.....	5,253.45
MOUNTAIN CAMP.....	19,746.98
CITY HALL STOREROOM, CARPENTER, PAINT SHOPS.....	9,590.05
DRAMATIC STUDIO.....	6,784.56
SPECIAL ACTIVITIES.....	129.29
STORE HOUSE SUPPLIES.....	6,444.34
POTRERO HILL SITE.....	8,560.86
BALBOA TERRACE SITE.....	56,155.00
ST. MARY'S PARK SITE.....	28,601.39

\$597,845.93

PLAYGROUNDS	ACREAGE	PERCENT TURF			PERCENT PAVED			PERCENT BARE GROUND			BUILDING EQUIPMENT							GAME AREAS							COURTS						
		Other than courts			APPROXIMATE FLOOR AREA IN SQUARE FEET	AUDITORIUMS	CLUB ROOMS	KITCHENS	SHOWERS C-COLO H-HOT	SWIMMING POOLS	BASEBALL REGULATION DIAMOND	BASEBALL-INDOOR	FOOTBALL, SOCCER, PALLONE	FREE PLAY	SMALL CHILDREN'S AREA	TRACK	BASKETBALL-OUTDOOR	BASKETBALL-INDOOR	BACCI BALL	HANOBALL	HORSESHOES	TENNIS	VOLLEY BALL								
		PER CENT TURF	PER CENT PAVED	PER CENT BARE GROUND																											
ARGONNE	0.83			100	480C							1			1	1		1					2A	1							
BAY VIEW	2.80	100			582B						1C	1	1	1	1		1					3									
CHINESE	0.51			100	455B									1	1	1			1				1A	1							
DOUGLASS	9.94			100	834B									3H																	
EXCELSIOR	1.60			100	2270B	1	1	1				1	1	1	1	1	1	1				1	1A								
FATHER CROWLEY	7.50	100			1000C		1				38C	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2A								
FOLSOM	0.86			100	144C							1			1	1	1	1					2A								
FUNSTON	12.70	100			5125B	1	2	1			2AB	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	5			4A	1							
GLEN PARK	10.42	25		75	9497C		1				1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1				1	1A	1							
HAMILTON	4.40	60		40	1360C		1					1	1	1	1	1	1	4					2A								
HELEN WILLS	0.87		100		694C									1H			1	1					2A	1							
JACKSON	4.41	100			4420C	1	2	1			1B	1	1	1	1	1	1	1		2		1	1A								
JAMES LICK	1.46			100	736B		1					1		1H			1	1	2				1A								
JAMES ROLPH, JR.	3.04	100			1460B		1				1A	1	1	1	1	1	1	2					2A	1							
JULIUS KAHN	6.03			100	450C							1	1	1	1	1	1	1				3	4A								
LEVI STRAUSS	0.25			100	184C											1	1														
MARGARET S. HAYWARD	4.00	100			550-950B							1		2H			3	1	4				4A	2							
MISSION	1.83	30		70	4880B							1	1	3C	1		1	1	1				2A	1							
MICHAELANGELO *	0.43		100		4880B	1	2	1				1		1H			1	1	1		1			1							
NORTH BEACH *	2.52	25	75		3350A		1					1	1	5H	2		1	1	4				2A	1							
OCEAN VIEW	10.28	100			1690C		1	1								1A	1	1	1				2A								
PORTOLA	4.96	50		50	225C							1	1	8C		2BC	1	1	2				4A								
PRESIDIO HEIGHTS	0.43		100		378B												1	1	1				1B	1							
RICHMONO & ANNEX	1.66			100	560C		1										1	1	1				2A								
WEST PORTAL	1.89	100															1	1	1				1A								
TOTAL	95.62																														

PLAYGROUNDS
* Lighted for night use.

Located at Mather, Tuolumne County, California, in High Sierra at elevation of 4500 feet. Capacity 200 guests. Open for period of eleven weeks from June 15 thru August. Equipped with Lodge, cabins, modern sanitation, electricity for heat, light and power.

LEGEND: BUILDINGS A-Reinforced Concrete B-Wood from Stucco C-Wood Frame
DIAMONOS A-Steel Backstops B-Wood Backstops C-Bleachers
TENNIS COURTS A-Double B-Single
SMALL CHILDREN'S AREA: Standard equipment consists of sand box, baby swings, regular swings, triple slide, small slide, travelling rings and teeters. All courts are paved with 3-inch concrete mat covered with 1-inch asphalt.
COURTS: Swimming pools are 30 ft. x 90 ft., depth 3 ft. to 9 ft., equipped with recirculation plants, vacuum cleaners and chlorinators.
POOLS: Pools are open air; water is unheated. Dressing rooms are in reinforced concreted buildings, surrounding pools.

WRITTEN AND COMPILED BY
GILBERT G. WEIGLE

PRESS OF
PHILLIPS & VAN ORDEN CO.
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.





ANNUAL REPORT

1929 »« 1930

AND

REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES

TO END OF CALENDAR YEAR 1930



PLAYGROUND COMMISSION

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA



"The universal impulse to play is divinely ordered; if God gives the instinct, man ought to provide the playgrounds."—Josiah Strong.



HON. JAMES D. PHELAN

President of San Francisco Playground Commission 1926-1930

In recognition of his years of untiring devotion to the Playground Department, his indefatigable efforts in the upbuilding of San Francisco, and his constructive work in California and the Nation, the Playground Commission, with affectionate regard, dedicates this book to the memory of Hon. James D. Phelan.

PLAYGROUND COMMISSION OF SAN FRANCISCO.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
PLAYGROUND COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1930
AND
REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES
TO THE END OF THE CALENDAR YEAR 1930



THE BOOK

» «

	Page
Frontispiece	1
Dedication	3
Statement by the Commission.....	8
The Commission.....	9
In Memoriam.....	10
James Duval Phelan.....	11
Letter of Transmittal.....	12
ANNUAL REPORT.....	13
Brief Facts—Playground Department.....	19
Organization Chart	20
Organization—Playground Department.....	21
Dramatic Department	22
Music Department.....	24
All-Round Junior Champion.....	26
Lindy League Members Win Honors.....	27
Handicraft	29
Recreative Activities	30
State Matches \$50,000 Gift.....	34
China Beach Ideal for Safe Swimming.....	35
Was Playgrounds' Friend.....	35
Night Activities on the Playgrounds.....	36
In Appreciation.....	38
Hayes Valley Recreation Center.....	39
Our Swimming-Pools.....	40
The Mountain Camp.....	41
Ten Million Hours of Play.....	44
Celebrate Harbor Day.....	45
Engineering Department.....	47
Engineering Department Activities.....	48
Areas Under Jurisdiction of Department.....	49
Athletic Supplies.....	51
Interpreting the Charts.....	51
Playground and Camp Attendance.....	54
Accounts for Fiscal Year 1929-30.....	56
Municipal Recreation Facilities.....	57

IT'S SAFE TO SWIM AT CHINA BEACH



"The public has come to learn that it is as necessary to provide playgrounds in cities for its children as schools." —John H. Finley, LL.D., first vice-president, National Recreation Association of America.

To the Citizens of San Francisco:

The Playground Commission of San Francisco looks forward to the time when every citizen can find, in the program provided, recreation of a type that will recreate in him, hope, happiness and achievement.

People, during their leisure, and in their search for recreation, are directed according to individual taste and ability. Some find it in athletic pursuits, and others in the arts.

The climate of San Francisco, and the unconscious appreciation of its beauty, develops a people mentally, physically and emotionally vigorous—achievement is of a superior order—therefore the Playground Commission is challenged to discover and foster the latent talent of the people of the city.

We all accept the premise of large play-fields, providing acres for baseball and allied athletics. We must also accept the premise of providing facilities for cultural recreation, such as orchestras, choruses, drama and hand crafts. The arts require fine public buildings, adequately equipped, and, most important, enthusiastic, idealistic instructors.

Dr. Herman Adler says that "behavior is a matter of taste." If this be true, the recreation offered must be of a high standard of taste and of such a quantity that all may participate. The behavior pattern of delinquency must be attacked intelligently and through recreation and proper use of leisure time, the pattern changed to one of a creative social order.

Parents should realize that the leisure time of children must be directed into safe channels and this direction is to be found on the San Francisco Playgrounds and in the Community Centers conducted by the Recreation Department of San Francisco.

The playground facilities and program are given in detail in the following Annual Report and show the progress that is being made in the Playground and Recreation Department.

Respectfully,

THE PLAYGROUND COMMISSION.



ROSALIE M. STERN
President of the Playground Commission

PLAYGROUND COMMISSION

ROSALIE M. STERN
President

CONSTANT J. AUGER
Vice-President

ALICIA MOSGROVE
GEORGE HEARST
WILLIAM H. LEAHY
IRA W. COBURN
JOHN McLAREN

EXECUTIVE STAFF

PLAYGROUND COMMISSION

JOSEPHINE DOWS RANDALL, Superintendent.
RAYMOND KIMBELL, Assistant Superintendent.
VEDA B. YOUNG, Secretary.
HOMER B. PACK, Engineer.
GEORGE S. HARMAN, Assistant Engineer.
HESTER PROCTOR, Supervisor of Dramatics and Folk Dancing.
MARIE V. FOSTER, Supervisor of Music.
HELEN WOLLANG CENTER, Supervisor of Swimming.
NORMAN CENTER, Camp Manager.

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
PLAYGROUND COMMISSION

IN MEMORIAM JAMES DUVAL PHELAN

WHEREAS JAMES DUVAL PHELAN has been called to his eternal rest, the Playground Commission desires to give fitting expression to his relatives in their great loss; and

WHEREAS his years of untiring devotion to the Playground Department, his indefatigable efforts in the upbuilding of San Francisco, and his constructive work in California and the Nation made him one of the most beloved and outstanding citizens and statesmen in the United States; be it

RESOLVED that the Playground Commission in regular session this day, Wednesday, September 3, 1930, expresses its profound grief, and condoles with the Nation in its great loss; be it further

RESOLVED that the Playground Commission adjourn this day out of respect to the memory of JAMES DUVAL PHELAN and that this Resolution be duly signed by the members of the Playground Commission and be spread upon the minutes of the Commission, and a copy be forwarded to his relatives.

JAMES DUVAL PHELAN

From the Playground and Recreation Magazine

IN August, 1930, James Duval Phelan of San Francisco, eminent statesman and citizen, died. As a United States Senator, Mr. Phelan took an active and effective part in the administration of international affairs. As Mayor of San Francisco for three successive terms prior to the disastrous earthquake and fire of 1906, he is ever to be remembered for his progressive administration while in office and his courageous influence in the period of reconstruction after the great disaster. His vision, cheerfulness and consideration of others won for him the admiration of people of all walks of life.

As president of the San Francisco Playground Commission since 1927, Senator Phelan performed a great service to the city. As a man of culture, he was quick to see the value of the artistic touch of beauty in design and landscaping of playgrounds. As a business man, he was readily interested in the operation and mechanics of playground administration and was keen to realize the need for efficiency and economy. As a philanthropist and lover of mankind, he knew people and people's children and the value of wholesome recreation.

Until shortly before his death he had been working to put through legislation whereby additional lands would be available to the people of San Francisco for playground and recreation purposes. He was especially interested in the preservation and development of picturesque China Cove as a recreation center for the public, and in his will bequeathed \$50,000 to aid in this project.

During his term of office on the Playground Commission, the Department grew tremendously in size and importance. His zest and enthusiasm permeated the entire Department personnel and his encouragement smoothed the paths of progress.

Through Senator Phelan's will millions were bequeathed to charities, churches and educational institutions. A permanent memorial will be selected to bear his name and it is possible that a playground or recreation center will also be named in honor of this outstanding citizen. The San Francisco Playground Commission, and everyone interested in recreation throughout the country, recognize the tremendous loss suffered through the death of James Duval Phelan.



There is charm in the symmetry and rhythm of folk dancing

City and County of San Francisco
PLAYGROUND COMMISSION

December 31, 1930.

To his Honor, Angelo J. Rossi,
Mayor, City and County of San Francisco,
City Hall, San Francisco.

Dear Mayor Rossi:

The report of the Playground Commission for the fiscal year 1929-30 and report of activities to the end of the calendar year 1930 are forwarded herewith. The report of the Commission is being sent in accordance with Article XVI, Section Nine, of the Charter of the City and County of San Francisco.

You will readily see that the Playground Commission is endeavoring to meet the challenge for more and better playgrounds and is providing a richer program to take care of the needs of the people of San Francisco.

Very truly yours,

PLAYGROUND COMMISSION

ROSALIE M. STERN, President.
CONSTANT J. AUGER, Vice-President.
ALICIA MOSGROVE
GEORGE HEARST
WILLIAM H. LEAHY
IRA W. COBURN
JOHN McLAREN

JOSEPHINE DOWS RANDALL, Superintendent
VEDA B. YOUNG, Secretary

ANNUAL REPORT 1929-1930

PLAYGROUND COMMISSION

City and County of San Francisco

"Give me control of a child's play life and I will dictate that child's future."
—Dr. Daniel A. Poling, National Recreation Association of America.

THE following areas and improvements were added to the existing playgrounds during the past fiscal year:

INCREASED RECREATIONAL FACILITIES

The yard of the Michaelangelo Playground was paved and a children's play-area installed. At St. Mary's Playground site several thousand cubic yards of fill were placed.

The vacant lots in the Ocean View Playground area were cleaned for use.

Many trees were removed from the Margaret S. Hayward Playground, thereby increasing the facilities for athletic activities.

A volley ball court and sewer extension were installed at the Glen Park Playground.

From the Douglass Playground a large amount of rock was excavated.

The development of a new playground on school property, located between 24th and 25th Avenues, Lake and California Streets, to be known as the Rochambeau Playground, was started.

Every playground building, fence and backstop throughout the Department was painted, and all necessary repair work performed.



Are Ocean View Playground mothers enjoying party?—Oh, sew-sew

Every ground throughout the Department was improved and beautified by the planting of turf, shrubbery and trees.

Extensive improvements were made at the Mountain Camp at Mather, not only to increase facilities and conveniences, but also to beautify the property, and as a direct result attendance was greatly increased over past years.

PROVIDES ADULT RECREATION

The land adjacent to the Funston Playground was laid out especially for adult recreation to include bocci ball and horseshoe courts, putting-greens, and facilities for checker and other games. In addition there is a large sandbox for children. The property was also beautified by the planting of many greens.

NEW SCHOOL PLAYGROUNDS

Three new school playgrounds, and one gymnasium were opened, as follows: Winfield Scott School, Balboa School Playground and Gymnasium, and John Geary School.

ADDITIONAL PROPERTY PURCHASED

Final payment was made on the Potrero Hill Playground site.
Final payment was also made on the Balboa Terrace Playground site.
Additional property was purchased for the Ocean View Playground site.

PERSONNEL

The personnel of the Playground Commission is as follows:	
Administrative and Executive Department.....	17
Directors on Playgrounds, regular, Sunday and emergency.....	114
Laborers, caretakers, gardeners and skilled mechanics.....	52
Total number of employees.....	
183	

The standard of playground supervision has been maintained since it is necessary for all playground directors to have recreation training and to pass an examination which is civil service in form.

ACTIVITIES ON PLAYGROUNDS

The Playground Commission in its program is endeavoring to provide leisure-time activities for all of the people of San Francisco through its playgrounds and community centers.

The following activities are at present conducted on San Francisco Playgrounds:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Aircraft Construction | 39. Marbles |
| 2. Apparatus | 40. May Days |
| 3. Archery | 41. Miniature Golf |
| 4. Bocci Ball | 42. Miscellaneous Clubs |
| 5. Badminton | 43. Music Week |
| 6. Baseball, Indoor | 44. Nature Study |
| 7. Baseball, Regulation | 45. Operettas |
| 8. Basketball | 46. Penny Piper Shows |
| 9. Bean Bag Games | 47. Pet Shows |
| 10. Billiards | 48. Play Days |
| 11. Blue Birds | 49. Picnics |
| 12. Boy Scouts | 50. Ping-Pong |
| 13. Boxing | 51. Pageantry |
| 14. Camp Fire Girls | 52. Pallone |
| 15. Camping | 53. Parades |
| 16. Checkers | 54. Practice Golf |
| 17. Chess | 55. Quoits |
| 18. Choral Groups | 56. Radio Programs |

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 19. Circle and Singing Games | 57. Rope Jumping |
| 20. Circus | 58. Sewing |
| 21. Croquet | 59. Ship Modeling |
| 22. Doll Shows | 60. Singing |
| 23. Dramatics | 61. Soap Carving |
| 24. Folk Dancing | 62. Soccer |
| 25. Football | 63. Social Dancing |
| 26. Girl Scouts | 64. Story Play |
| 27. Glee Clubs | 65. Swimming |
| 28. Gymnastics | 66. Tap Dancing |
| 29. Handball | 67. Tennis |
| 30. Handicraft, Miscellaneous | 68. Tether Tennis |
| 31. Harmonica Bands | 69. Tin Can Golf |
| 32. Hiking | 70. Toy Symphonies |
| 33. Hockey | 71. Track and Field Meets |
| 34. Hopscotch | 72. Tumbling |
| 35. Horseshoes | 73. Volley Ball |
| 36. Industrial Groups | 74. Whist and Bridge Parties |
| 37. Jacks | 75. Wood Carving |
| 38. Kite Flying Contests | 76. Wrestling |

DEPARTMENT PROGRAMS

The activity program which emanated from the office included:

1. Baseball leagues on Saturday afternoons and Sundays.
2. Basketball tournament for boys.
3. Box Wood Contest.
4. Boys' Summer Baseball League, 801 participants.
5. Camp Reunion, Civic Auditorium.
6. Christmas Parade, 500 children in costume.
7. Christmas Caroling.
8. Educational tour of airports for Lindy League Members.
9. Evening activities for adults in cooperation with playground directors' programs which included dramatics, social dances, whist and bridge parties, basketball and active athletic games both indoors and on lighted courts, gymnastic activities, carnivals, handicraft and club meetings.
10. Fall Festival, Civic Auditorium, 868 participants.
11. Folk dance programs for special occasions, 1,796 participants.
12. Girls' Baseball Tournament, 241 entrants.
13. Girls' Play Day, 300 participants.
14. Handicraft classes.
15. Harmonica contest.
16. Kite contest.
17. Lindy League miniature aircraft meets at Civic Auditorium, State Armory, Funston Playground and Golden Gate Park Stadium.
18. May fetes.
19. Music Week program.
20. Melody Day.
21. Playground Directors' dinner and dance at Michaelangelo Community Center.
22. Penny Piper Show Contest.
23. Playground Exhibit, Civic Auditorium.
24. Poster Contest with award of art scholarship, California School of Fine Arts.
25. Programs for Shriners' Hospital, Laguna Honda Home, The Emporium, and Letterman Hospital.
26. Ship Building and Harbor Exhibit at Merchants' Exchange Building.
27. Soap Carving Exhibit.
28. Swimming Meets.
29. Tennis Tournament, 1,849 entrants.
30. Track and Field Meet for boys, 825 entrants.
31. Vacation Picnic and Hiking Schedule.
32. Wide repertoire of dramatic and story play presentations on all playgrounds.



The Fall Festival was held at the Civic Auditorium

Valuable cooperation exists between the Board of Education and the Playground Commission.

At the present time the Physical Education departments of the Daniel Webster, Hamilton, Francisco, Noe Valley, John Swett and Portola Junior High Schools, the Sarah B. Cooper, Commodore Stockton, Sheridan, Ethan Allen, Hancock, Edward Robeson Taylor and West Portal Grammar Schools, and the Girls' High School conduct their daily athletic, gymnastic and play programs on the following playgrounds, respectively: Jackson, Hamilton, North Beach, Douglass, Margaret S. Hayward, Chinese, Portola, Michaelangelo, Ocean View, Father Crowley and West Portal.

The Playground Department also provides trained supervision and playground supplies, after school hours and on Saturdays, at twenty schoolyards.

The majority of the athletic tournaments, such as basketball, baseball and soccer, held under the auspices of the Department of Physical Education, are conducted on the San Francisco playgrounds.

The Board of Education has adopted the policy of turning over their gymnasiums to the Playground Commission for evening use when not required for night school programs and when the construction is practical for such use. The Balboa Gymnasium is now under our supervision.

EDUCATIONAL AND PROMOTIONAL ACTIVITIES

For the benefit of citizens who ordinarily do not come in touch with the playgrounds and their numerous activities the Department inaugurated and expanded its service in the following manner:

First Annual Open House and Tour for Parents and Teachers' Association group, in which 450 participated.

Radio Programs.

Talks before civic and improvement clubs, organizations, and Parents and Teachers' groups.

Cooperation with Junior Chamber of Commerce, especially in their Harbor Day Program.

Playground Exhibit at Annual Food Show, Civic Auditorium.

Special Music Week program.

Participation in Columbus Day Celebration, Aquatic Park.

Invitation to prominent speakers to address playground directors' meetings.

Cooperation with Down Town Association and San Francisco merchants in Christmas Parade and Festivities.

CHINA BEACH FOR RECREATION

The Playground Commission is actively interested in cooperating with the California State Park Commission in making possible the acquisition of China Beach, the only safe beach for swimming on the San Francisco shoreline, to be used for public recreation.

The interest of the Playground Commission in this matter dates back to the early part of 1929 when the owners filed a subdivision map of the China Beach area. This action impressed the public-spirited leaders of civic organizations in the district with the necessity of immediate action to preserve this area for the use of the public. They started a campaign to save this beach for public use that met with the approval of and secured the endorsement of civic improvement groups all over the city. It was also suggested at that time the Playground Commission supervise and administer this recreation area.

After numerous meetings and investigations the proposition was finally submitted to the voters for their decision, November, 1929, 72,175 persons voting. The proposition failed to carry by the small margin of 3,948 votes. Knowing the sentiment of the neighborhood, and that the proposition had the backing of many organizations in San Francisco, the Playground Commission has continued its interest in the project.

Staunch support was given by Senator James D. Phelan who took a personal interest in the proposition because of his great desire to perpetuate this beautiful recreation spot by the Golden Gate for all the public.

APPRECIATION

The Playground Commissioners have received splendid cooperation from the various city departments, and therefor wish to express their appreciation to His Excellency, Gov. James Rolph, Jr., His Honor, Angelo J. Rossi, mayor of the City and County of San Francisco; Mr. Edward Rainey, Mr. Alfred J. Cleary, executive secretary to the Mayor; the Board of Supervisors, the City Attorney's staff, Board of Education, Juvenile Court, Police Department, Park Commission, Board of Health, Board of Public Works, Department of Electricity, Public Library, Fire Department, Engineering Department, Exposition Auditorium, Right-of-Way Department, Civil Service Commission, Municipal Airport; and all others who have given such valuable assistance in promoting the Playground and Recreation Movement.



Portola Playground field house

NOT FROM CATHAY SO FAR AWAY



Just a songbird sisters' quartette from Chinese Playground

BRIEF FACTS ABOUT THE SAN FRANCISCO PLAYGROUND DEPARTMENT

PLAYGROUNDS

Number of Regular Playgrounds operated.....	26
Number of Supervised Schoolyard Playgrounds operated	20
Regular Playgrounds open:	
Week-Days, 12 M. to 6 P. M.	
Week-Days, during school vacation, 10 A. M. to 6 P. M.	
Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, 10 A. M. to 6 P. M.	
Community Center Playgrounds equipped for night activity are open from 7 P. M.	
to 10 P. M. every evening except Saturday and Sunday.	
Schoolyard Playgrounds open:	
3 P. M. to 5 P. M., week-days.	
10 A. M. to 5 P. M., Saturdays.	
10 A. M. to 6 P. M., week-days, during school vacation.	
10 A. M. to 5 P. M., holidays.	
Closed on Sundays.	

SWIMMING-POOLS

Outdoor Pools operated.....	2
When open:	
April 1st to November 1st:	
Week-Days, 10 A. M. to 6 P. M.	
Saturday, Sunday and holidays, 10 A. M. to 6 P. M.	

MOUNTAIN CAMP

Mountain Camp, Tuolumne river gorge, Hetch Hetchy: 175 miles from San Francisco, 30 miles from the Yosemite Valley.	
Open:	
June 15th to August 31st.	
Fees:	
15 yrs. and over.....	\$2.00 per day.
12-14 yrs.	1.25 per day.
2-11 yrs.	1.00 per day.
This includes three meals per day, quarters and use of all Camp facilities.	

GENERAL FACTS

The San Francisco Playground Commission is a separately organized recreation department of the city government.

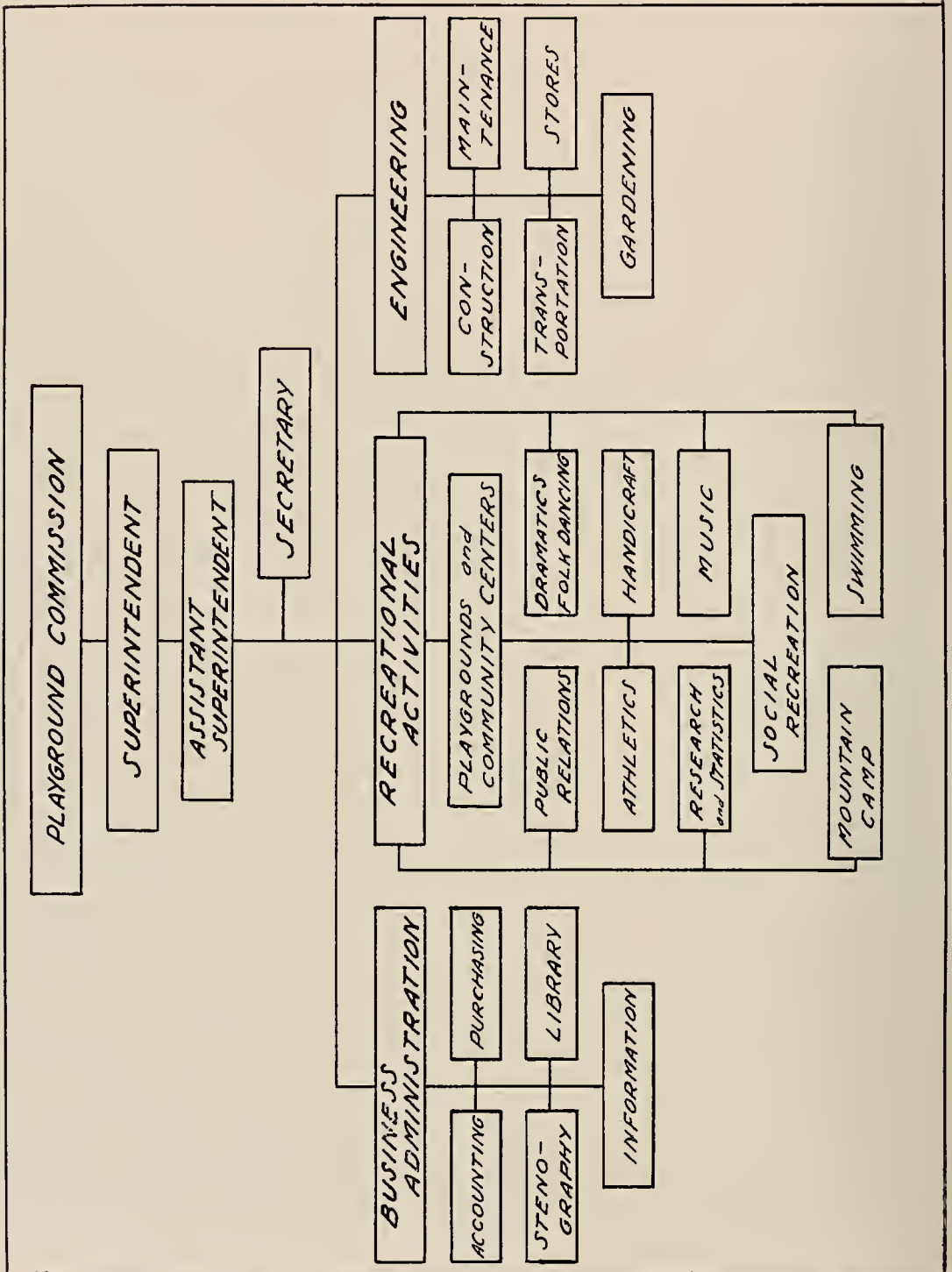
It is governed by the Board of Commissioners appointed by the Mayor.

It is managed by a superintendent appointed by the Board of Commissioners.

It is supported by a tax allotment of seven cents on each one hundred dollars of assessed valuation.

It is not affiliated with the Park Commission or Board of Education, but cooperates with them whenever possible in the administration of public recreation in San Francisco.

ORGANIZATION CHART



THE ORGANIZATION OF THE PLAYGROUND DEPARTMENT

TO accomplish a more perfect coordination of the working organization of the Playground Department, the Playground Commission during the fiscal year redetermined and designated the duties and functions of two of the three interrelated subdepartments responsible for conduct of the Playground Department and created the position of assistant superintendent of playgrounds.

THREE CORELATED BRANCHES

As now organized, the San Francisco Playground Department functions through the following three corelated branches:

1. The Business Administration Department.
2. The Engineering Department.
3. The Recreational Activities Department.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

No change was made in either designations or duties in the Business Administration Department, which is responsible for bookkeeping, purchasing, stenography, library and information service.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

The formerly named Construction and Maintenance Department, of which engineering was a function, is now the Engineering Department, with functions including: construction, maintenance, transportation, stores and gardening.

While the duties and functions cover the same scope of activities as before, emphasis is now placed on engineering rather than on the resultant activities of construction and maintenance.

ACTIVITIES DEPARTMENT

The most important change was in officially centering all recreative activities under the newly designated Recreational Activities Department.

By the new arrangement a department head is responsible to the Playground Commission for conduct of all recreative activities, which include:

Conduct of playgrounds and community centers, social recreative activities, public relations, dramatics, folk dancing, athletics, handicraft, music, swimming, Mountain Camp, and research and statistical records.

Previously these activities did not, in the organization layout, converge to one department apex.

CHIEF PURPOSE RECREATION

As previously, all organization departments function for the prime purpose of providing recreation for the children and, in lesser degree, the adults of the city.

The Business Administration Department and the Engineering Department function solely for the benefit of the Recreational Activities Department.

Recognition of the importance of contacting the public is disclosed in the creation of a public relations position in the Recreational Activities Department.

DRAMATIC DEPARTMENT

LET'S pretend! What? Oh, anything will do. For the older child these words mean a play with written parts. For the small child they mean giving free reign to his imagination and so being transported to a land of make-believe which is certainly more exciting than ordinary life.

The qualities in a child which the Department especially endeavors to foster through dramatics are spontaneity and imagination, both of which are often crushed out by the reality and hurry of modern life. Also the children can sympathize with the troubles of others if they take parts which make them understand a bit of what burdens other people have to bear.

Of course the child will perhaps not understand all the things that are planned for him. The gay costume or pretty lights and scenes are all that concern him. He may not know that his everyday English is improved by the noble speeches that he is learning; but that is one of the results for which a director strives. Often, too, an unmanageable child becomes tractable when given a chance to "act" and express itself.

THEY LIKE TO "PLAY-ACT"

There seems really little need to make dramatics "attractive" to children. The mere mention of the word "play" brings an avalanche of small people who want parts. They may be thinking of the costumes, or of pretending to be someone else, but whatever the reason they are always ready, and often in larger numbers than can be handled easily.

In giving a play, the first step is wisely to choose a play that is of suitable length and text for the children taking part. There are so many worthwhile plays that this is often quite a task; but it is especially important to get a play that has beauty of line and feeling.

At the first meeting with the children the play is always read to them. In the interim before the next meeting the parts are typed ready to give them. The method of assigning parts, as followed by the Department, is not by tryouts, as such. The director selects the children who are to read the parts for the first time with the understanding that they are not permanent. Usually most of the children are allowed to read each part at a different rehearsal until the best cast for the play is determinable. Then the parts are definitely assigned.



Little Peter Pan is glad there are playgrounds



Not fairy princesses but playground folk dancers

CHILDREN LEARN LINES QUICKLY

The children are not allowed to take their parts home to memorize until they are perfectly familiar with the pronunciation and meaning of each word. By the time this is accomplished there is little need to give them the parts as they have usually memorized them.

Groups vary greatly in size and age on the different playgrounds. There are small groups of large boys and large groups of small boys. There are many groups of small girls, and a few girls' dramatic clubs of high school age. One of the oldest is the Playground Play Producers of the Helen Wills Playground. They have been together for four years. The most interesting group, perhaps, is the Glen Park Ladies Dramatic Club. These women, all of different nationalities, have produced several plays a year for three years, and the Dramatic Director has found them fascinating to work with.

COOPERATION APPRECIATED

The School Department has generously cooperated in allowing use of its buildings for rehearsals and productions. Many of the playgrounds with small buildings would have been deprived of the advantage of producing plays and the Department would have disappointed many children if it had not been for this generous service. It is appreciated by many and especially by those who are working on the plays.

OFFER MANY PROGRAMS

During the fiscal year the Dramatic Department offered:

ACTIVITIES		PARTICIPANTS		ATTENDANCE
Programs,	48.....	Actors,	1,930 ..	.....17,622
Rehearsals,	.....	Actors,	10,800 ..	.....
Story Plays	9.....	Actors,	100 ..	..... 500
May Festivals,	4 ..	Dancers,	335 ..	..... 1,190
Fall Festival,	1.....	Children,	868 ..	..... 7,000
Christmas Parade,	1.....	Children,	335 ..	.....
Folk Dancee,	1.....	Children,	17,810	Held weekly on many playgrounds.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

THE Department of Music has been organized a little over two years and is still very much in its infancy. It has shown a very definite growth, however, more than doubling total attendance this fiscal year compared with 1928-29. The number of activities also increased to more than double the number of a year ago. Most gratifying is the increased excellence of performance among the groups that have attained stability of organization.

The aim and ideal has remained unchanged. The Department is striving to furnish worthwhile leisure-time activities and to provide, through good music, a method of self-expression that is recreative and at the same time educational. None but the best music is provided, and utmost effort is made to present it in an attractive and instructive manner.

MANY SINGING GROUPS

Much attention has been given to the organization and training of singing groups. Many of the children in a number of groups have been in attendance since the Department was organized and for that reason it has been possible to attain a higher degree of perfection than perhaps otherwise could have been reached. The groups are being taught the first simple rules of ensemble singing and the results have been highly satisfactory. Free and easy singing, out of the throat, has been the first endeavor. This is followed by diction training, correct breathing, interpretation, poise, and finally all that goes with singing in ensemble under a director. There have been eight such children's groups which have met regularly each week throughout the year with the exception, in a few instances, of two months in the summer. Eighteen additional groups have been organized and trained for shorter periods, making a total of twenty-six children's choruses, with a yearly attendance of 12,720. Ten adult groups have met during the year, with a total attendance of 4,320. Seven of these ten groups have been consolidated for various programs, and many of them have given a number of very creditable individual performances.

COMMUNITY SINGING

Community singing groups have been conducted informally in three community centers. One of these groups, a chorus of Italian boys, has been meeting regularly, with the director of the center as leader. The other groups have met irregularly and the singing has been largely spontaneous and informal.

TOY SYMPHONIES

The toy symphony has proved to be a very popular form of musical activity. Here also the Department, adhering to its general aim, has endeavored not only to amuse the younger playground child but to teach him some things of value that he may carry into his later musical life. This would include first a sense of rhythm, then some slight instruction in musical history, musical form, expression, and ability to listen for musical themes. There are now two sets of toy symphony instruments in use every day of the week and the attendance is growing by leaps and bounds.

HARMONICA BANDS

Ten playgrounds have had organized harmonica bands meeting irregularly during the year. In May the Department conducted a harmonica contest and seven playgrounds furnished entrants: soloists and bands. A class for directors was organized and met over a period of two months. During the year a number of groups appeared on various programs, particularly the boys from the Chinese Playground. These boys have been able to hold their organization together and for that reason have attained a high degree of perfection in ensemble playing. During the year a total of 1,215 children were in attendance at group meetings.

ADULT ORCHESTRAL GROUPS

Three playgrounds have developed their own adult orchestral groups. Work has been of an informal nature and rehearsals have not been regular. The orchestras have been available for their own playground programs and provided pleasing additions to music programs on several occasions during the year.



Christmas carolers sang to Mayor Rossi at his home

MUSIC AND DRAMATICS

The Supervisor of Music and the Supervisor of Educational Dramatics have worked together and have given a number of city-wide affairs. The Annual Fall Festival this year was very successful with 868 children participating. The Music Week performance was equally fine. Outstanding, too, was the first annual program of tableaux and Christmas carols. This year fifty children from the James Lick Playground went throughout the city on the evening of December 23rd, singing Christmas carols. Besides providing a wonderful experience for the children it gave pleasure to those for whom they sang.

Programs were also given this year at Letterman Hospital for the soldiers, at Laguna Honda Relief Home, for the Food Show at the Civic Auditorium, and at numerous other places, as well as over the radio. One boys' group gave a performance of the operetta Robin Hood taking all the solo and speaking parts.

EXCEEDINGLY SATISFACTORY

The year as a whole has been exceedingly satisfactory but there are many things awaiting development and much to be done, in the opinion of the Department, in perfecting those ventures already started.

During the fiscal year the Music Department offered:

ACTIVITY	NO. OF ACTIVITIES	NO. ENROLLED	ATTENDANCE
Children's Choruses	26	636	12,720
Adult Glee and Chorus.....	10	144	4,320
Harmonica	10	78	1,872
Toy Symphony.....	10	258	13,416
Community Singing.....	Informal	.....	547
Senior Orchestra.....	3	7	140
Total.....		1,123	33,015

ROBERT BONNER GOT THE HONOR



He won the All-Round Junior Championship at the National Recreation Association Miniature Aircraft Meet

LINDY LEAGUE MEMBERS WIN HONORS

THE most encouraging impulse received by the Lindy League since its organization by the Playground Department in June, 1927, was the assurance of Playground Commissioner George Hearst that the "San Francisco Examiner" would defray all expenses to be incurred by the San Francisco Miniature Aircraft winner and escort in competing at the National Recreation Association Miniature Aircraft Meet, in Atlantic City, October, 1930.

This big incentive put new life in the Lindy League, and such building and flying of miniature aircraft by Lindy League members as followed, you never did see. "On to Atlantic City!" became the slogan.

RECORDS ARE BROKEN

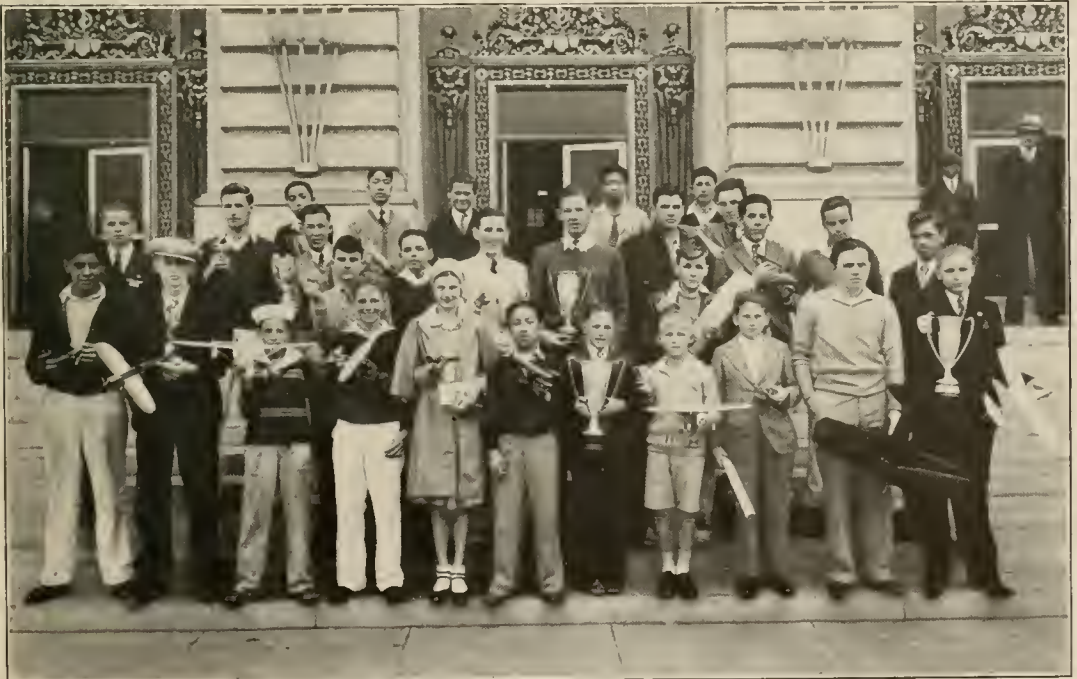
The three major qualifying contests, which were held in the State Armory and at Funston Playground, were attended by enthusiastic audiences and leaders in aviation circles, including representatives of the National Aeronautic Association, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the Boy Scouts of America. Many new developments in construction were made and as a result both National and Pacific Coast records were broken.

At the final meet, Robert Bonner won the Junior Championship, and Glen Hainer and Paul Tescher tied for the Senior Championship of the Pacific Coast.

OUR NATIONAL CHAMPION

San Francisco qualified more entrants to the National Tournament than any other city in the United States.

As a result of the splendid showing, "The Examiner" and the Playground Commission



Lindy League winners display trophies at City Hall

sent Junior Champion Robert Bonner, and Senior Champion Glen Hainer, with an escort, to the National Meet.

Bonner won the All-Round Junior Championship of the United States, and Hainer placed fourth for All-Round Senior National Champion.

WINS AMELIA EARHART TROPHY

Betty Hind of San Francisco—you'll find her on the frontispage—was the only girl in the United States to qualify for the National Meet and was the winner of the Amelia Earhart Trophy for the girl winning the highest number of points in the National Playground Miniature Aircraft Meet.

SPECIAL PROGRAMS

The activities of the Aircraft League were broadened during the year through radio programs and speeches by aviation authorities. Opportunity was also afforded the members of the League to visit the Bay Region airports where they acquired much information regarding aircraft mechanism, airport layouts, and weather conditions governing flying. A visit to one of the leading aircraft schools of the United States, located on one of the airports, was also included in the trip.

DEPARTMENT AIDS BUILDERS

The Playground Commission has secured, through a local importer of balsa wood, extra quality balsa, and is supplying it to Lindy League members and their friends at cost.

ENCOURAGING OUTLOOK

The enthusiasm and interest of the aircraft builders, encouraged by the success of this "banner year," insures a very bright future for the Lindy League.



A tense moment in a miniature aircraft tryout

HANDICRAFT

IN the Playground Department program for the year handicraft played its important part for those children who find their longing for self-expression best satisfied in constructive activities.

ATTRACTS CERTAIN TYPES

Results again have proved that handicraft instruction on the playgrounds attracts many children who are not interested in gregarious games and athletic competitions, but are attracted to sculpturing, wood carving, aircraft construction and other handicrafts. It has been found that handicraft work, through association, overcomes the child's aversion to crowd-associations and many handicraft children eventually join the throngs that take part in games and athletics.

GIVEN IMPORTANT PART

The Department believes that, in addition to the recreative value of handicraft, the child is learning, in many instances, something that will afford him invaluable diversion, if not livelihood, in his later life; for which reason handicraft has been given an important place on the Playground Department's general program.

MANY BENEFICIAL RESULTS

Many beneficial results have been noted through bringing children engaged in handicraft activities into association with children whose interest is in music or drama or sports.

At present the following are among the important handicraft activities being conducted on the playgrounds:

Miniature aircraft construction, coping-saw work, ship building, sand modeling, soap sculpturing, paper art, sewing, leather tooling, basketry, reed and raffia work, boxwood carving, and kite construction.



Hydro-models at the Miniature Aircraft Meet

RECREATIVE ACTIVITIES

MENTALLY and physically San Franciscans—and their children preeminently—demand playtime outlets for their energy.

Recognizing this demand, the San Francisco Playground Commission has to the utmost of its financial ability sought to meet it—with baseball fields, tennis courts, swimming-pools, and other playtime accommodations.

VERY VARIED PROGRAMS

During the fiscal year the Department offered on all of the playgrounds, at the field houses, and elsewhere, programs of recreative activities that ranged from baseball and basketball tournament to track meets and swimming contests, from the kite flying and harmonica playing to miniature aircraft tourneys and soap carving, from music and dramatic entertainments to Christmas caroling and vacation picnicking.

Altogether, the Department actively inspired and supervised over a hundred such events, in addition to which more than ten million hours of recorded play were spent by playground children and adults in leisure-time enjoyment at the supervised playcenters.

INDIVIDUAL PLAYGROUND EVENTS

During the year the Department continued its policy of placing emphasis on individual playground competitive events rather than on intramural, inter-playground, tournaments, with the result that—as anticipated—there was a noticeable increase in the aggregate of athletic play-participants.



This is just Girls' Play-Day—See that ball on its way



Playtime is gaytime in kite flying at Funston

Soap carving, kite making, paper art, penny piper shows, construction of objects from boxwood, and the designing of posters were featured along with miniature aircraft and ship building in this year's handicraft program.

Exhibits were held which greatly encouraged these arts and crafts among the children who delight in activities of a passive nature.

The principal exhibit was held in the Civic Auditorium which was attended by thousands who became acquainted with the scope of the Playground Department's activities.

VACATION TRIPS AFIELD

The many points of interest within easy reach of San Francisco furnish, especially during the vacation periods, a real lure for the playground children. Accompanied by playground directors, they are escorted to places of interest both in the city and in the country, to the woods, beaches, military reservations, and universities. Visits to manufacturing plants and industrial concerns are also included on some of the outings, and an educational feature is thereby added to many of the programs.

These trips have proved especially beneficial to the less fortunate children whose parents are unable to spare the time necessary to take them on outings such as the Playground Department affords.

PLAY-DAYS REVIVED

Play-Days on the San Francisco Playgrounds were revived this year and their renaissance met with a most enthusiastic response.

The foremost Play-Day was held at Funston Playground. Three hundred girls, dressed in uniform costumes consisting of white middies and black bloomers, and wearing colored armbands, participated in the program.

The program included a parade with a uniformed band, and numerous basketball, volley ball and outdoor baseball games. Besides the competitive events for the older groups, circle and singing games were held for the small children.

Pleasure and benefit are being reaped by the children on these happy occasions and they are developing healthy interests in varied athletic activities.

TRACK AND FIELD MEETS

In ancient times, track and field meets were popular. They still continue to hold a strong and lively fascination for hundreds of San Francisco's playground boys. The Annual Track and Field Meet was held at Jackson Playground with 825 boys entered. The events included dashes, relays, the shot put, broad and high jump, and one-half mile race.

Approximately two thousand spectators enjoyed the event and the enthusiasm of participants and audience assures the success of similar future events.

TENNIS CONTINUES POPULAR

It is difficult to overemphasize the benefits of exercise derived from tennis. In addition, it provides pleasure, health and happiness.

Tennis has always been a popular activity on the San Francisco playgrounds; first perhaps, because of the incentive furnished by many world-renowned players who began their tennis-playing on our playground courts, and secondly, perhaps, because of San Francisco's climate—ideal for year-round practice—and then too, perhaps, because tennis so perfectly meets the demands of play-loving boys and girls.

In the annual Tennis Tournament 1849 girls and boys participated in the singles matches. Then properly to conclude a successful year, the champions foregathered with famous "Pop" Fuller, director of the Junior Division of the National Tennis Association, who in addition to presenting them with their well-earned certificates, gave them an interesting and enlightening talk on the value of tennis.



Tennis Tournament winners, certificates and "Pop" Fuller



They travel fast at Jackson Playground Field Meet

Baseball series for girls and boys, and also boys' basketball tournaments, have always interested hundreds of players. Approximately twenty individuals are usually signed up on each team for the purpose of developing as many players as possible instead of endeavoring to feature a limited number of players.

The city is divided into theoretical north and south divisions, players thereby not being required to travel far from their home grounds. The respective division winners meet and play for the city championship.

Leaders in baseball and basketball from the near-by universities, and outstanding players on their teams, are frequently invited to address the playground groups and give them advice and assistance. This, it has been found, does much to encourage the playground players, and is now an established policy of the San Francisco Playground Department.

MANY PARTICIPANTS

It is interesting to note the large numbers of participants that many of the events staged by the Playground Department brought out during the year.

Here are some of the outstanding events and the numbers of participants:

EVENT	PARTICIPANTS
Tennis Tournament	1849
Folk Dance	1796
Fall Festival	868
Track and Field Meet, for boys.....	825
Boys' Summer Baseball League.....	801
Boys' Basketball Tournament.....	575
Christmas Parade	500
Girls' Play-Day	300
Girls' Baseball Tournament	241

COMMISSION

WILLIAM EDWARD COLBY, CHAIRMAN
SAN FRANCISCO

MAJOR FREDERICK R. BURNHAM
HOLLYWOOD

HENRY W. O'MELVENY
LOS ANGELES

ARTHUR E. CONNICK
OAKLAND

W. F. CHANDLER
FRESNO

LAURA E. GREGORY
SECRETARY



STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Department of Natural Resources

Division of Parks

ADDRESS ALL COMMUNICATIONS TO
650 MILLS BUILDING
SAN FRANCISCO

FRED G. STEVENOT
DIRECTOR

CHAS. B. WING
CHIEF

December 14, 1930

Miss Josephine Randall, Superintendent,
San Francisco Playground Commission,
Civic Center,
San Francisco, California.

My dear Miss Randall:

At its last meeting the State Park Commission
unanimously adopted the following resolution:

"RESOLVED: That \$50,000 be allocated out
of the State Park bond monies to match the
gift of the late Senator Phelan in the
acquisition of China Cove as outlined in
Landscape Architect Shepherd's report of
the area, it being understood that any
amount over that sum necessary to complete
the purchase should be forthcoming from
other sources."

If there is any way in which we can cooperate
further will you please advise us.

Very sincerely yours,

Laura E. Gregory
Secretary.

LG/AG

CHINA BEACH IDEAL FOR SAFE SWIMMING

CHINA BEACH, the most ideal swimming place on San Francisco's shoreline, has not yet been acquired for use as a public recreative center, although \$50,000 was provided in the will of Senator James D. Phelan, and that amount has been matched by \$50,000 allocated out of the State Park bond monies by the State Park Commission for the purpose of acquiring the property.

At the November election, a proposition for the preservation of China Beach for public recreation was submitted to the electors, but the measure failed to carry by a small margin.

WILL CONTINUE EFFORTS

Encouraged by the near-success that followed a campaign of less than a month, the public-spirited citizens who advocated the measure, aided by the Playground Commission and many other public and civic organizations, will continue their efforts to acquire the beach property for public use.

ARE PRESENTLY ACTIVE

Among the organizations and individuals assisting in the campaign, and presently active in advocating the acquisition of China Beach, are: San Francisco Playground Commission, San Francisco City Planning Commission, San Francisco Garden Club, Daughters of California Pioneers, Second District California Congress of Parents and Teachers' Association, Galileo Parents and Teachers' Association, Sutro Parents and Teachers' Association, Clement Street Merchants' Association, San Francisco Building Trades Council, Post United Veterans of the Republic, Disabled American Veterans of World War, Associated Sportsmen of California, State of California Department of Natural Resources, Division of Parks, Daughters of California Pioneers, Corporal Harold W. Roberts, Dr. Edward F. Glaser, State Board of Health; Dr. Walter M. Dickie, State Board of Health; Dr. Dora Hammar, Dr. Louise Deal, J. Sheldon Potter, Alan McDonald, Park-Presidio Improvement Association, Geary Street Merchants' Association, Mrs. Annette L. Bachman, Mrs. Herbert Gunn, Mrs. Charles Robinson, Mrs. Paul Paige, Mrs. W. S. Berry, Mrs. Wm. Joyner, Alfred Meyer, Neel D. Parker, Frank A. Fox, Edward A. Kenney, Mrs. Melvin D. Savage.

WAS PLAYGROUNDS' FRIEND

The passing of Thomas F. Boyle, city and county auditor for more than twenty years, and ex officio member of the Playground Commission, 1908-09, was a real loss to the Department during the fiscal year. Mr. Boyle died May 3, 1930.

As a member of the Board of Education during the rehabilitation period that followed the great catastrophe of 1906, Mr. Boyle learned to know the play-needs of children and the construction-needs of the Playground Department. During the years that followed his election as auditor of the City and County of San Francisco, his interest never waned.

That in his friendly nature that led thousands to call him "Tom" was perhaps the same kindly quality that made him through the intervening years always a helpful friend of the Department.

NIGHT ACTIVITIES ON SAN FRANCISCO PLAYGROUNDS

WITH nine community center playgrounds in San Francisco sponsoring evening programs in recreation on an average of four evenings a week, the schedule of evening work offers an interesting field for study.

Providing recreation activities for an average weekly evening attendance of nineteen hundred children and grown-ups, these nine playgrounds, distributed throughout different parts of the city, naturally present a varied program of activities. On the existing program almost every type of competitive, creative, and organized club activity is personally supervised, organized and encouraged by the San Francisco Playground Commission.

Athletic, dramatic and organized club work is assured on every playground on the regular schedule of activities, while, in addition to these, musical groups are to be found on four of the playgrounds.

BRIGHT LIGHT FOR NIGHT PLAY

On programs of athletic activity are included, basketball, indoor baseball and tennis; and, in the summer months, twilight baseball is added as a part of the evening program. Inter-playground games in these activities are organized by the directors in charge of the playgrounds, and a regular schedule for competitive athletics is maintained throughout the year. On one playground, in particular, outdoor activity has been made possible in the evenings through the installation of a brilliant illuminating system. On this playground, tennis, football and baseball are played in the evening with the aid of electric lights. As a result, attendance on this playground far surpasses that on any other.

DRAMATICS IS POPULAR

Dramatic work is carried out on every playground. Groups interested in this activity are, for the most part, composed of grown-ups and younger people above 17 years of age. In this particular branch of the work exceptional results have been obtained. In a recent program, sponsored by the Commission in conjunction with the Christmas Week festivities, one evening group presented a series of exceptionally well-executed Nativity plays which were accorded considerable newspaper commendation. This group was composed entirely of young working men and women between 17 and 21 years of age.

Dramatics is by far one of the most popular of evening club activities since almost every club organization, at one time or another, attempts something in the way of drama as an entertainment feature. On one playground a dramatic group, composed almost entirely of mothers of playground children, has been in existence for over two years. This group, meeting regularly in the evenings in the playground clubrooms, presents plays at regular intervals throughout the year. Dramatic groups are to be found on every community center playground throughout the city.

MUSIC CROWDS DRAMATICS

Musical activities, crowding dramatics for popularity, are to be found on four of the nine evening recreational centers. On one community center playground situated in the heart of the Italian settlement, a group of thirty-five young Italian boys organized a glee club. Another group, on the same playground, enrolled twenty-five boys in a harmonica club. In another section of the city there is a girls' glee club, and in still another, a group of mothers organized a glee club for grownups, sponsoring community songs and short musical programs.

A senior girls' glee club of thirty members, all between the age of seventeen and twenty, is preparing a spring concert which will be given in June of '31. Such is the interest

in musical activities that, although the organization of this particular phase of the work is still in its infancy, present indications promise a rapid increase in the number of clubs in this field.

SOCIAL CLUB GROUPS

Organized social club groups present a varied field of activity. On some playgrounds this type of club combines athletic and social functions. During the winter months, athletic clubs, forsaking athletics, continue to hold meetings on the playgrounds during the evenings, conducting socials, whist parties, or an occasional dance program. Club members and parents of club members attend these functions, thus establishing close contact between the playground and the community.

The Department has recently experimented with Friday-night dances on several playgrounds throughout the city and has thus far found them most satisfactory. Attendance records show as many as two hundred children and parents attending these functions. Other organized clubs, meeting regularly on different playgrounds, are of varied types. One group is interested in clog and tap dancing, another group in tumbling work, still others in Boy Scout or Camp Fire activities. Interests and endeavors, it is thus seen, represent a wide range of activities. These various activities, encouraged and directed by each playground instructor, are closely supervised.

EVENING RECREATION

Under the present schedule of evening activities on community center playgrounds, the San Francisco Playground Commission is endeavoring, as far as possible, to maintain well-balanced and appealing programs for evening recreation. Although this particular branch of the work is still in a beginning stage, the Department is continually striving to increase its service in this comparatively new and pioneer field of Community Center Playground Work.



Social dancing group at Jackson Playground

IN APPRECIATION

FOR THE WORK PERFORMED AT THE HAYES VALLEY RECREATION CENTER
BY THE ADMINISTRATORS OF THE ADOLPH ROSENBERG FUND

WHEREAS the Chief of Police informed the Playground Commission that over a period of many years the greatest number of police and Juvenile Court cases in any one locality in San Francisco have been recorded from the Hayes Valley District; and

WHEREAS the Playground Commission, firmly believing in the benefits to be derived from wholesome recreation, decided to have a survey made in the summer of 1930, and from said survey the existing recreational facilities were found to be very inadequate, and it was decided to renovate the unused Wesley Methodist Church building, located at Hayes and Buchanan Streets, and utilize it for recreation purposes for the children of the neighborhood, and

WHEREAS funds were not available from the Playground Commission budget to carry out this worthy cause, the administrators of The Adolph Rosenberg Fund were apprised of the situation and kindly consented to meet all rehabilitation and furnishing expenses, as well as the monthly rental, and

WHEREAS the Hayes Valley Recreation Center has become a reality and is of inestimable value to the neighborhood, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Playground Commission, in regular session this day, March 4, 1931, express to the administrators of The Adolph Rosenberg Fund, i. e., Max L. Rosenberg, trustee, and Miss E. Oppenheimer, its profound appreciation for their philanthropic spirit, untiring efforts and their most commendable work, therefore be it further

RESOLVED that this Resolution be duly signed by the members of the Playground Commission, and that it be spread on the minutes of this Commission, and that a copy be sent to the administrators of The Adolph Rosenberg Fund.



Boys' reading-room at Hayes Valley Recreation Center

HAYES VALLEY RECREATION CENTER

IN May, 1930, the Chief of Police discussed with members of the Playground Commission problems in Hayes Valley and the surrounding district of interest to both Departments.

In order better to understand the conditions of this district a careful study of it was made showing its recreational opportunities and needs.

The following recommendations were made:

1. That the Margaret S. Hayward Playground located in the heart of the district be lighted for night use.
2. That a community center be established in the district.
3. That a recreation director at large be employed to work in the district.
4. That a coordination committee be organized composed of the Chief of Police, Chief Probation Officer, Superintendent of Schools and Superintendent of Playgrounds, for the purpose of bringing about a closer cooperation between city departments working with children.

All recommendations in the survey have been carried out.

With the help of the Adolph Rosenberg Fund, the unused Wesley Methodist Church building, at Hayes and Buchanan streets, has been turned into a very active community center.

The directors of the Center, the director at large, and the directors of the two municipal and two schoolyard playgrounds in the district are working closely together providing not only recreational opportunities but also going out into the highways and the byways and interesting young people in using the facilities provided.

The director at large in this special district has demonstrated the success of a very valuable experiment, and it is the plan of the Playground Commission to carry on the same type of development in other districts in the city.



Basketball at the Hayes Valley Recreation Center

OUR SWIMMING-POOLS

THE San Francisco Playground Department operates two open-air swimming-pools, the Mission Pool, located at 19th and Angelica streets, which is 90 by 30 feet in size; and the North Beach Pool, located at Mason and Lombard streets, which is 90 by 28 feet in size.

KEPT CLEAN AND SANITARY

Both pools are equipped with diving-boards, showers, locker-rooms, and excellent filtration systems. The water is filtered continually, twenty-fours a day, at the rate of a complete pool turnover every eight hours. The bottoms and side-walls of the pools are kept constantly clean and sanitary by vacuum cleaning and brushing, and modern chlorinating units assure at all times an even dosage of free chlorine in the water. The Board of Health makes frequent tests of the water and has found the pools invariably free from harmful bacteria.

THEY SWIM IN SCHOOL HOURS

The Playground Department and the Board of Education cooperate to allow use of the pools by school children during school hours, provided the children are chaperoned by a teacher, a life-guard and swimming-instructor are present and an attendant is in charge of their suits.

During the year, Junior High School groups attended the pools regularly to receive instruction in swimming, diving and life-saving. Grammar school groups, special classes and many tiny-tots attend the pools and received swimming lessons.

MEETS AND PAGEANTS

The boys' and girls' Annual Swimming Meets this year, arranged by the Junior and Senior Swimming Clubs, were important features of the year's athletic program, while the girls' Water Pageants were, as usual, the dramatic high light of the year.



North Beach Swimming-Pool—Which one cries for school?



The Lodge at Mountain Camp at Mather has attractions

THE MOUNTAIN CAMP

SAN FRANCISCO'S Mountain Camp, located at Mather, Tuolumne County, California, enjoyed a generous patronage for the 1930 season.

Over a period of seventy-seven days' operation there was an average of 216 guests per day in camp. Over the peak of the season, for a period of seven weeks, there was a daily average of 260 guests, with an extreme attendance of 296. A great number applying at the San Francisco office were unable to arrange for accommodations. Registration opened May 1st, and it was found necessary to suspend registrations between June 20th and August 11th. Altogether 2095 persons were at the Camp, as compared with 1275 the season before.

CAPACITY OF CAMP DOUBLED

During the fall of 1929 and the spring of 1930, \$32,000 was expended in additional building and for equipment, thereby increasing the capacity of the camp from 150 per day to 300 per day. It was believed that not only would more people have an opportunity to enjoy a vacation at Mather, but also through increased volume the camp could be made altogether self-supporting without lowering the quality of service or raising the rates.

EXPENDITURE JUSTIFIED

That the expenditure was justified is apparent from the attendance record.

For the information of those unacquainted with the Mountain Camp at Mather, the following facts are offered: The Camp is located in Tuolumne county, seven miles off the Big Oak Flat-Tioga road, nine miles from the O'Shaughnessy Dam, two miles outside the Yosemite Park, and thirty miles from the Yosemite Valley.

The elevation is 4,500 feet.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Camp accommodations include excellent meals, served cafeteria style, at which as many helpings as are desired may be had. Cabins, each simply furnished with a comfortable steel-spring cot, mattress, pillow, chair, stool, wardrobe, plate-glass mirror and electric lights. Bath-houses are strictly modern and are plentifully supplied with washstands, showers and tubs. There is a bountiful supply of hot water twenty-four hours a day.

Guests supply their own bedding.

The lodge dining-room is used as a recreation-room. A fireplace, seven feet high and seven feet wide, is the feature of this room.

Swimmers and bathers take full advantage of the lake, and there is a concrete pool at the edge of the lake for non-swimmers.

Horses are available at very low rates, and a motor bus makes trips to all surrounding points of interest at a low fare.

ENTERTAINMENT

There are horseshoe, croquet, volley and handball courts, a baseball diamond, and ping-pong tables available for use at all times.

Camp-fire programs, amateur theatricals, bridge and whist parties, dances, tournaments and games are arranged for the entertainment of guests.

BEAUTIFUL OUTING PLACE

There is nowhere in California a more beautiful vacation-outing place than the Mountain Camp at Mather, and its successful operation is a matter, not only of pride, but of pleasure to the Playground Department. The schedule of rates, it will be noted, is very low:

SCHEDULE OF RATES

Adults, \$2.00 per day; children, 2-12 years, \$1.00 per day; children, 12-15 years, \$1.25 per day.



Here we have the swimming-pool at Mountain Camp

Camp Reunions have always been joyous occasions for the Playground Department, and this year's Camp Reunion at the Civic Auditorium was no exception.

The audience, composed principally of former campers and their friends, enjoyed an entertainment provided exclusively by those who had, at one time or another, attended the Mountain Camp at Mather.

IN POETICAL SETTING

The setting represented a typical Mountain Camp camp-fire, and helped to transport the audience in imagination to the "Land of Summer Dreams" at Mather, where "the rippling water sings to the hill, and the hill waves verdant hands to the sky; and the great meadow, and the less lea, in constancy of love, smile high, up to the sun."

After the poetry of the camp-fire program, dancing, refreshments, bridge and whist games rounded out the enjoyable evening.



Camp-fire memories are recalled at Camp Reunion





Boys' Track and Field Meet—All ready to go somewhere

TEN MILLION HOURS OF PLAY

SAN FRANCISCO'S children and grown-ups spent more than 10,000,000 hours in recreation and playtime on the city's playgrounds during the last fiscal year. The recorded number of recreation and play periods was 3,995,659, a recreation-play period being estimated at two to three hours.

BOYS OUTPLAY GIRLS

The records show that boys played more than twice as much as girls, men played nearly twice as much as women, and that the boys and girls played more than four times as much as the men and women.

FATHER CROWLEY MOST POPULAR

Father Crowley Playground led all the others with a record of 532,498 play periods, North Beach Playground being second, with 413,168 recorded play periods, and Funston Playground third with a record of 308,186 periods of playtime.

IT'S ALL-TIME RECORD

The totals for the fiscal year are the highest in the history of the Playground Department.

Of adult players, men favored Father Crowley Playground above all the others combined, playing more than 500,000 hours there during the year, according to the records; while women favored Funston and North Beach.

BOYS FAVOR NORTH BEACH

Boys played more at North Beach Playground than at any other playground, with Funston and Hamilton trailing second and third respectively.

GIRLS' CHOICE IS HAMILTON

Girl players, however, favored Hamilton Playground with first choice, North Beach second, and Funston third.

The "baby record" for play periods for the year was recorded at Douglass Playground, 22,754 for the year.

CELEBRATE HARBOR DAY

SAN FRANCISCO'S children of many nationalities, mindful of their heritage in the possession of one of the finest harbors in the world, eagerly cooperate in the celebration of Harbor Day.

CHILDREN BUILD REPLICAS

This annual event, sponsored by the Junior Chamber of Commerce, furnishes an incentive for the children to build ships, yachts and boats of every conceivable kind, as well as miniature replicas of the Ferry Building, the waterfront and the harbor, for display at the Merchant's Exchange Building and the famous Ferry Tower.

AWAKENS APPRECIATION

This handicraft activity has helped the children to acquire a keener interest in geography, commerce, and art, and at the same time has awakened a greater appreciation by the public of the Recreation Movement and the importance of playground activities.



Display of posters entered in Playground Contest

BEFORE AND AFTER IMPROVEMENT



Rochambeau Playground site—was a sight



Rochambeau Playground—the city's newest

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT

AS the Engineering Department is a service department which furnishes the Activities Department with caretaking and gardening service, shop and repairs, transportation and all other needs of a physical nature, this Department must expand in proportion to the growth of the Activities Department.

The program of expansion of the Activities Department has necessitated a number of changes in the operation of the Engineering Department in its surveys, plans, designs for facilities and products which it manufactures, builds, erects, distributes or maintains.

SOME UNIQUE PROBLEMS

In this connection, the community center program and the gymnasium activities have presented problems which were unique to this Department. The Department has given the equipment of buildings of community center and gymnasium work considerable study, and has, where space permitted, maintained the standards of the recreation field in general in all of its equipment and apparatus.

In view of the fact that some of the community center buildings are old structures, designed for other purposes, and not altogether adapted to recreative use, the Department has of necessity, compromised with standard sizes of courts and equipment.

PLAY-AREAS IMPROVED

The general physical condition of the play-areas has improved materially in the past year. When a standard is reached, immediately an improved example is adopted, thus leading towards continual improvement in the design and maintenance of fields and buildings.

The Department has encountered a few problems which were met in what is believed to be a unique manner. It has always been a problem to furnish sufficient lighting for the thousands of children participating in the Fall Festival, as so many are grouped on the large floor of the building at a time. In this connection, three batteries, totaling twelve standard 2500-watt flood-lights, which were borrowed from their respective playgrounds for the evening, were installed. The results left little to be desired.

REMOVABLE BASKETBALL GOAL

In the Portola field house it was desirable that all the equipment be as perfect as the building. A readily removable basketball goal was required. A study of the numerous types offered failed to provide a type which seemed to be satisfactory in every detail. A counter-balanced goal was suspended from a shaft on two steel channels, on line with the steel trusses of the room. This goal was so perfectly counter-balanced that it could be raised by a child with one hand, and if released would swing slowly into the playing position without jar.

NEW STYLE GOLF DRIVING-SCREENS

The Department undertook the erection of a battery of six golf driving-screens. A study of all those available, together with questioning of many enthusiasts, failed to reveal any standard type of driving-screen. The Department thereupon developed a driving-screen of light structural steel form, covered with galvanized poultry-mesh, that seems satisfactory in every way.

ENGINEERING DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES

CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS

Field Houses built.....	2	Handball Courts built.....	1
Recreation Centers conditioned and equipped.....	1	Tennis Courts repaved.....	2
Buildings dismantled.....	5	Sanitary Fixtures replaced.....	8
Buildings sold.....	5	Drinking Fountains installed.....	4
Trees and Shrubs planted.....	1,100	Camp Cabins built.....	10
Fields planted in turf, acres.....	3	Camp Dining-Room.....	1
Driving Cages erected, 1 unit of.....	6	Camp Cabins rehabilitated.....	20
Putting Greens, of 18 holes.....	1	Buildings moved.....	3
Grounds graded complete.....	2	Trees removed.....	32
Grounds graded, not complete.....	3	Buildings painted, exterior.....	7
Living Christmas trees planted.....	20	Buildings painted, interior.....	5
Windows replaced.....	482	Rooms painted.....	6
Truck deliveries made.....	3,840	Iron fences painted.....	3
Fields lighted for night play.....	3	Court lines painted.....	180
Courts lighted for night play.....	8	Benches painted.....	132
Tennis Courts paved.....	1	Buildings painted—trim and doors only.....	9
Basketball Courts paved.....	1	Swimming-Pools painted.....	2

PRODUCTS MADE IN DEPARTMENT SHOP

Supply Lockers.....	10	Bulletin Boards, on stands, with sash.....	11
Tennis Court Lockers.....	4	Bulletin Boards, on stands, no sash.....	23
Cabinet and Cupboards.....	14	Concrete sand-boxes.....	3
Kindergarten Tables.....	37	Soccer Ball Goals—sets.....	10
Kindergarten Benches.....	27	Tennis Paddles.....	60
Outside Field Benches, with backs.....	48	May-Poles.....	10
Solid Benches, set in ground—lineal feet.....	100	Christmas Tree Stands.....	14
Benches, with no backs—16-foot.....	14	Baseball Diamond Bases.....	12
New flag-poles installed.....	6	Office Tables, oak.....	2
Long Swings.....	62	Oak Desks repaired.....	3
Baby-Swings.....	72	Office Partitions installed.....	1
Teeter-Boards.....	16	Music-Rack Stands—sets.....	12
Baby-Slides.....	3	Music Suit-Cases.....	2
Triple Slides.....	4	Stage Setting, for Dramatic Department.....	1
Jack-Tables.....	6	Band Stand, for Dramatic Department.....	1
Basketball Goals.....	16	Queen's Throne, for Dramatic Department.....	1
Screens, for sand-boxes.....	14	Airplane Water-Tanks, for Dramatic Department.....	2
Jumping-Stands—pairs.....	12	Cabinets, for Mountain Camp.....	150
Bean Bag Boards.....	22	Signs, various.....	150
Spring-Boards.....	2	Stepladders, 1 ft. to 8 ft.....	14
Bean Bag Boards.....	22		

AREAS UNDER JURISDICTION PLAYGROUND COMMISSION

REGULAR PLAYGROUNDS

ARGONNE—18th avenue, between Geary and Anza streets.

BAY VIEW—3rd and Armstrong streets.

CHINESE—Sacramento street, between Stockton and Waverly.

DOUGLASS—26th and Douglass streets.

EXCELSIOR—Russia and Madrid streets.

FATHER CROWLEY—7th and Harrison streets.

FOLSOM—21st and Folsom streets.

FUNSTON—Chestnut and Buchanan streets.

GLEN PARK—Chenery and Elk streets.

HAMILTON—Geary and Scott streets.

HELEN WILLS—Broadway and Larkin streets.

JACKSON—17th and Carolina streets.

JAMES LICK—25th and Noe streets.

JAMES ROLPH, JR.—26th and Potrero avenue.

JULIUS KAHN—Presidio Res., 1 block below Jackson, between Spruce and Locust.

LEVI STRAUSS—14th and Valencia streets.

MARGARET S. HAYWARD—Golden Gate avenue and Gough street.

MICHAELANGELO—Greenwich street, between Jones and Leavenworth streets.

MISSION—19th and Angelica streets.

NORTH BEACH—Lombard and Mason streets.

OCEAN VIEW—Plymouth avenue and Lobos street.

PORTOLA—Hamilton and Silliman streets.

PRESIDIO HEIGHTS—Clay, near Walnut street.

ROCHAMBEAU—24th avenue, between Lake and California streets.

RICHMOND No. 1—18th avenue, between Lake and California streets.

RICHMOND No. 2—18th avenue, between California and Clement streets.

WEST PORTAL—Ulloa and Lenox Way.



Horse-hiking is a favorite sport at Mountain Camp

SCHOOLYARD PLAYGROUNDS

ALVARADO—Douglass and 22nd streets.
ANDREW JACKSON—Hayes street, between Cole and Clayton streets.
BALBOA GYMNASIUM—Onondaga and Cayuga avenues.
BAY VIEW—Bay View and Pomona street.
DETENTION HOME—150 Otis street.
EDISON—Dolores and 22nd streets.
FAIRMOUNT—Chenery and Randall streets.
FARRAGUT—Holloway avenue and Capitol street.
FRANCIS SCOTT KEY—42nd avenue and Irving street.
GARFIELD—Kearny and Filbert streets.
GUADALUPE—Cordova and Prague streets.
IRVING M. SCOTT—22nd and Tennessee streets.
JEFFERSON—19th avenue, between Irving and Judah streets.
JOHN GEARY—Cook and Geary streets.
JOHN MUIR—Page and Webster streets.
LAGUNA HONDA—7th avenue, between Irving and Judah streets.
LONGFELLOW—Lowell and Morse streets.
MCKINLEY—14 and Castro streets.
RAPHAEL WEILL—Buchanan and O'Farrell streets.
WINFIELD SCOTT—Divisadero, between Beach and North Point streets.

DRAMATIC STUDIO

DRAMATIC STUDIO—2435 Sacramento street.

OPEN-AIR SWIMMING-POOLS

MISSION—19th and Angelica streets.
NORTH BEACH—Lombard and Mason streets.

PLAYGROUND SITES

BALBOA TERRACE—Ocean avenue and Aptos Way.
POTRERO HILL—22nd and Missouri streets.
ST. MARY'S PARK—Crescent and Agnon avenues.

MOUNTAIN CAMP

MOUNTAIN CAMP—at Mather, Tuolumne county, California.



Mere Maids—at the lake at Mountain Camp at Mather

ATHLETIC SUPPLIES

ATHLETIC supplies issued to the playgrounds during the fiscal year tell a graphic story of interest in games ranging from baseball, tennis, football and handball, to ping-pong, quoits and checkers.

THERE'S BIG VARIETY

Requirements varied from footballs, baseballs and tennis balls to beeswax, whistles and needles. During the year the Supplies Department contributed five sets of dumb-bells, seventeen sets of Indian clubs, 326 checker-boards and sets, and 8100 feet of jump-rope to the playgrounds.

JACKS JUMP TO 12,528

Ping-pong picked up, requiring 436 ping-pong balls, with jacks jumping to 87 gross, 1048 dozen, 12,528 individual jacks, and 679 jack balls.

Some of the more important recreational supplies sent to the playgrounds during the fiscal year were:

Regulation and indoor baseballs.....	2072
Tennis Balls.....	1128
Handballs, Basketballs	1083
Footballs, volley balls, soccer balls.....	340
Nets, for tennis, volley ball, basketball.....	136
Mitts, for catchers, first base, fielders.....	69
Catchers' Masks.....	36
Baseball Bases, sets of 3.....	56
Checker-Boards and Checker Sets.....	326
Horseshoe Sets.....	39
Tennis Rackets	336
Sets of Quoits.....	20
Jump-Rope, total feet.....	8100
Paddle Tennis Sets, and paddles.....	210
Whistles	103

INTERPRETING THE CHARTS

THE charts on pages 52 and 53 are intended to show in graph form the non-athletic playground activities, and the cost of athletic supplies in relation to playground attendance.

CHILDREN ARE GREGARIOUS

The Non-Athletic Playground Activities Chart, it will be observed, makes evident the gregarious habits of children at play. The group games column, were it extended to its proportionate height, which it is not, would reach a point more than double its length on the Chart. This fact should be of interest to all playground managements.

It will be observed that boys' clubs activities lead girls' clubs activities by almost two to one, that folk dancing and singing run nearly a tie, as do music and dramatics. It may be observed that handicraft, table games and story play take no small part in the playground scheme.

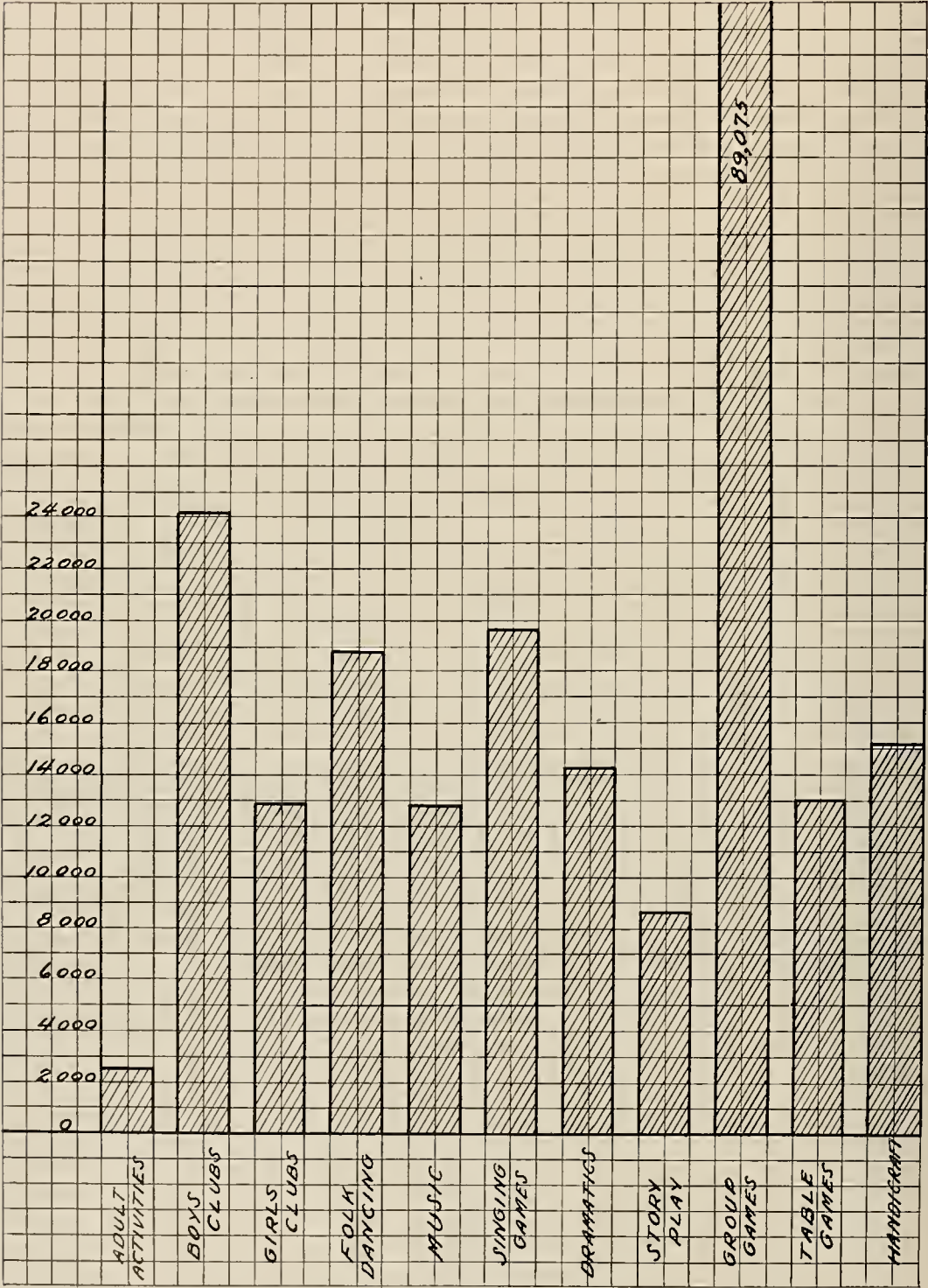
The Attendance—Cost of Athletic Supplies Chart, while an intricate graph, tells its story clearly if the legends be observed.

The line of attendance on all playgrounds, it might be noted, is a fairly accurate good-weather-bad-weather chart for San Francisco. It will be seen that the high peaks of attendance were reached during good-weather months and that low attendance occurred during the rainy weeks of December and January-February.

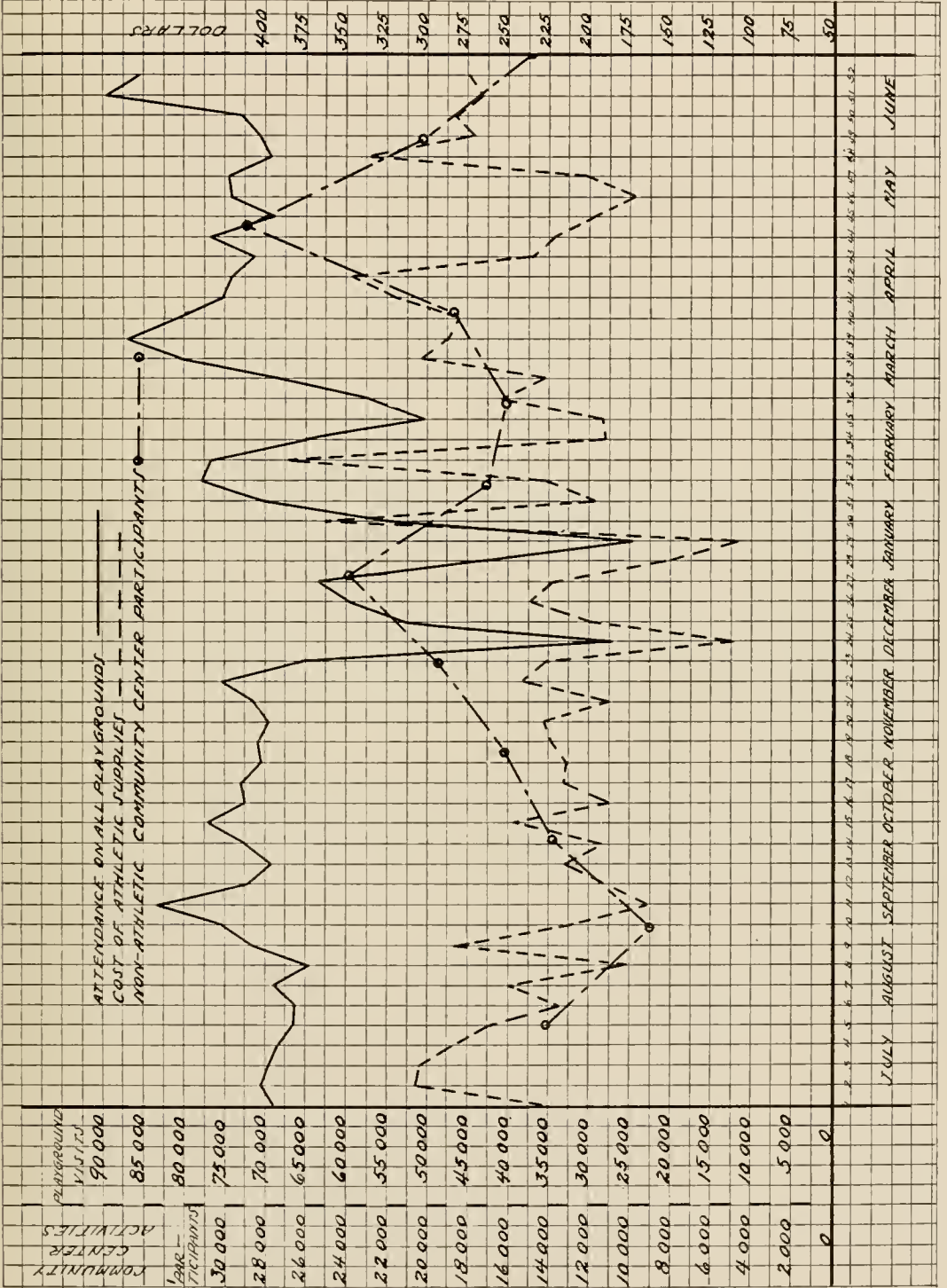
COST LINE FOLLOWS ATTENDANCE

The cost line varies but slightly from the all-playgrounds attendance line except towards the end of the fiscal year when the Department inaugurated a program of economy, which accounts for the variation.

Community center—indoor activities—attendance line runs naturally contrariwise of the all-playgrounds attendance line across the chart.



NON-ATHLETIC PLAYGROUND ACTIVITIES 1929-30



ATTENDANCE—COST OF ATHLETIC SUPPLIES 1920-30

PLAYGROUND AND CAMP ATTENDANCE

FISCAL YEAR 1929-1930

REGULAR PLAYGROUNDS

	BOYS	GIRLS	MEN	WOMEN	SPECTATORS	TOTAL
ARGONNE.....	30,943	21,942	2,435	10,252	1,946	67,518
BAY VIEW.....	12,695	288	21,153	46	10	34,192
CHINESE.....	92,010	45,126	9,951	9,293	13,652	170,032
DOUGLASS.....	15,371	6,154	566	517	146	22,754
EXCELSIOR.....	45,682	32,782	8,111	5,956	1,462	93,993
FATHER CROWLEY.....	91,179	34,695	228,219	14,939	163,466	532,498
FOLSOM.....	42,918	20,326	3,134	5,589	986	72,953
FUNSTON.....	146,989	66,795	19,650	28,902	45,850	308,186
GLEN PARK.....	41,992	14,373	7,584	6,973	9,825	80,747
HAMILTON.....	128,948	100,167	4,864	15,950	5,754	255,683
HELEN WILLS.....	30,513	15,098	1,481	3,816	709	51,617
JACKSON.....	61,865	30,562	24,373	5,893	22,924	145,617
JAMES LICK.....	32,558	25,005	2,187	2,695	283	62,728
JAMES ROLPH.....	89,131	34,140	24,275	9,221	24,376	181,143
JULIUS KAHN.....	45,784	26,756	5,588	11,752	3,625	93,505
LEVI STRAUSS.....	16,831	12,521	4,464	5,467	50	39,333
M. S. HAYWARD (Boys).....	88,956	6,254	10,354	3,412	2,270	111,246
M. S. HAYWARD (Girls).....	39,498	37,781	4,325	13,845	.....	95,440
MICHAELANGELO.....	51,039	19,754	2,546	1,815	3,659	78,813
MISSION.....	63,386	50,584	4,284	19,795	341	138,390
NORTH BEACH.....	242,068	67,673	42,547	20,578	40,312	413,168
OCEAN VIEW.....	81,800	48,347	11,063	6,143	17,327	164,680
PORTOLA.....	59,261	18,770	6,917	6,302	13,607	104,857
PRESIDIO HEIGHTS.....	32,475	18,919	614	3,722	241	55,971
RICHMOND.....	55,207	33,091	2,623	9,497	1,042	101,460
WEST PORTAL.....	37,152	24,005	1,937	3,495	12	66,601
TOTAL.....	1,676,251	811,908	455,235	225,865	373,875	3,543,134

SCHOOLYARD PLAYGROUNDS

	BOYS	GIRLS	MEN	WOMEN	SPECTATORS	TOTAL
ALVARADO	24,878	6,194	3	14	.....	31,089
ANDREW JACKSON	15,918	3,760	379	972	479	21,508
BALBOA FIELD	1,763	136	54	9	252	2,214
BALBOA GYMNASIUM	239	46	31	.....	.....	316
BAY VIEW	16,878	7,095	49	10	54	24,086
BOYS' AID	658	.....	.....	.....	.....	658
DETENTION HOME	5,220	3,735	.....	.....	.....	8,955
EDISON	38,995	5,752	14	16	115	44,892
FAIRMOUNT	22,648	7,389	236	186	405	30,864
FARRAGUT	16,671	5,474	405	158	320	23,028
FRANCIS SCOTT KEY	11,193	6,221	13	77	735	18,239
GARFIELD	14,026	4,086	525	1,030	560	20,227
GUADALUPE	14,930	5,134	12	44	.....	20,120
IRVING M. SCOTT	13,930	6,865	135	462	25	21,417
JEFFERSON	17,869	3,355	94	101	935	22,354
JOHN GEARY	1,134	558	18	131	.....	1,841
JOHN MUIR	20,615	4,270	27	18	.....	24,930
LAGUNA HONDA	15,634	6,265	4	3	.....	21,906
LONGFELLOW	18,902	6,132	.....	.....	.....	25,034
McKINLEY	14,570	6,743	162	453	1,641	23,569
RAPHAEL WEILL	23,652	5,952	82	258	162	30,106
WINFIELD SCOTT	1,048	332	5	52	.....	1,437
	311,371	95,494	2,248	3,994	5,683	418,790

OPEN-AIR SWIMMING-POOLS

	BOYS	GIRLS	TOTAL
MISSION	11,336	9,752	21,088
NORTH BEACH	6,717	3,835	10,552
	18,053	13,587	31,640

MOUNTAIN CAMP

MOUNTAIN CAMP	.....	2,095
GRAND TOTALS	2,005,675	3,995,659

ACCOUNTS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 1929-1930

The Budget Appropriations and Monies Received by the Department were disbursed as follows:

RECEIPTS

APPROPRIATION 1929-1930	\$573,695.48
SWIMMING RECEIPTS.....	1,247.53
CAMP RECEIPTS.....	26,992.64
REFUNDS.....	668.27
AUCTION SALE OF BUILDINGS.....	5.00
CANCELLATION OF DEMANDS.....	116.32
BALANCE OF STORES ACCOUNT 1928-1929.....	13,404.09
TOTAL.....	\$616,129.33

DISBURSEMENTS

ADMINISTRATION	\$ 52,371.16
ARGONNE.....	5,082.78
BAY VIEW.....	6,970.90
CHINESE.....	7,061.08
DOUGLASS.....	20,665.71
EXCELSIOR.....	8,004.82
FATHER CROWLEY.....	15,835.50
FOLSOM.....	5,064.15
FUNSTON.....	29,448.82
GLEN PARK.....	10,892.44
HAMILTON.....	12,982.85
HELEN WILLS.....	33,214.75
JACKSON.....	12,382.93
JAMES LICK.....	5,418.61
JAMES ROLPH, JR.....	10,573.87
JULIUS KAHN.....	6,437.29
LEVI STRAUSS.....	3,878.27
MARGARET S. HAYWARD.....	14,617.53
MICHAELANGELO.....	12,651.85
MISSION.....	7,732.06
NORTH BEACH.....	15,653.41
OCEAN VIEW.....	10,189.20
PORTOLA.....	9,031.82
PRESIDIO HEIGHTS.....	4,930.33
RICHMOND NO. 1.....	5,639.14
RICHMOND NO. 2.....	384.91
ROCHAMBEAU (CONSTRUCTION).....	8,992.61
WEST PORTAL.....	6,171.54
ALVARADO SCHOOLYARD.....	1,122.27
ANDREW JACKSON SCHOOLYARD.....	1,032.48
BALBOA GYMNASIUM AND SCHOOLYARD.....	282.80
BAY VIEW SCHOOLYARD.....	1,091.53
DETENTION HOME.....	969.34
EDISON SCHOOLYARD.....	1,094.90
FAIRMONT SCHOOLYARD.....	1,256.11
FARRAGUT SCHOOLYARD.....	1,035.45
FRANCIS SCOTT KEY SCHOOLYARD.....	837.83
GARFIELD SCHOOLYARD.....	1,087.20
GUADALUPE SCHOOLYARD.....	1,091.47
IRVING M. SCOTT SCHOOLYARD.....	1,081.79
JEFFERSON SCHOOLYARD.....	1,177.66
JOHN GEARY SCHOOLYARD.....	182.75
JOHN MUIR SCHOOLYARD.....	1,059.46
LAGUNA HONDA SCHOOLYARD.....	1,080.81
LONGFELLOW SCHOOLYARD.....	1,229.90
McKINLEY SCHOOLYARD.....	1,274.66
RAPHAEL WEILL SCHOOLYARD.....	1,295.63
WINFIELD SCOTT SCHOOLYARD.....	205.42
BOYS' AID SCHOOLYARD.....	129.77
MISSION POOL.....	5,334.74
NORTH BEACH POOL.....	5,284.81
MOUNTAIN CAMP.....	48,576.62
CITY HALL STOREROOM, CARPENTER, PAINT SHOPS.....	1,550.86
DRAMATIC STUDIO.....	6,586.71
MUSIC DEPARTMENT.....	743.77
AIRCRAFT DEPARTMENT.....	79.36
BALBOA TERRACE SITE.....	44,964.58
POTRERO HILL SITE.....	18,497.50
ST. MARY'S PARK SITE.....	78,446.26
STORE HOUSE SUPPLIES BALANCE.....	14,959.68
DEFICIT, 1928-1929 appropriation, due to decrease in estimated tax receipts.....	5,465.30
BALANCE APPROPRIATION 1929-1930 to be expended on work in progress.....	23,739.58

\$616,129.33

PLAYGROUNDS *Lighted for night use.	SURFACE			BUILDING EQUIPMENT						GAME AREAS							COURTS								
	ACREAGE	PER CENT TURF	PER CENT PAVED	PER CENT BARE GROUND	FLOOR AREA IN SQUARE FEET	AUDITORIUMS	CLUB ROOMS	KITCHENS	SHOWERS	SWIMMING POOLS	GAME AREAS							COURTS							
											REGULATION DIAMOND	BASKETBALL INDOOR	FOOTBALL, SOCCER, PALLONE	FREE PLAY	SMALL CHILDREN'S AREA	TRACK	GOLF DRIVING CAGES	PUTTING-GREENS	BASKETBALL OUTDOOR	BOSCHI BALL	HANDBALL	HORSESHOES	TENNIS	VOLLEY BALL	
ARGONNE	0.83			100	480C							1	1	1					1					2A	1
BAY VIEW	2.80	100			582B				6		1C	1	1	1									3		
CHINESE	0.51			100	455B				1					1	1				1					1A	1
DOUGLASS	9.94			100	894B			1	3			1	1	1	1										
EXCELSIOR	1.60			100	2270B	1	1	1	4			1	1	1	1				1					1A	
FATHER CROWLEY	7.50	100			1000C	1	1	1	4		3BC	1	1	1	1				1				2	2A	
FOLSOM *	0.86			100	740B	1			1			1	1	1	1				1					2A	
FUNSTON and ANNEX	19.54	70		30	5125B	1	2	1	8		2AB	1	1	1	2		6	1	2	1	5		12	4A	1
GLEN PARK	10.42	25		75	480C	1					1	1	1	1	1				1				1	1A	1
HAMILTON	4.40	60		40	1360C	1						1	1	1	1				4					2A	
HELEN WILLS	0.87		100		694C			1	1			1	1	1	1				1					2A	1
JACKSON	4.41	100			4420C	1	2	1	6		1B	1	1	1	1	1			1			2	1	1A	
JAMES ROLPH, JR.	3.04	100			1460B	1			2		1A	1	1	1	1				2					2A	1
JULIUS KAHN	6.03		100	100	450C							1	1	1	1		1		1				3	4A	
LEVI STRAUSS	0.25			100	184C									1	1										
MARGARET S. HAYWARO *	4.00	100			550-950B		1	1	2			2		3	1				4					4A	2
MICHAELANGELO *	0.43		100		4860B	1	2	1	1					1	1				1			1			1
MISSION	1.83	30		70	4880B		1		3	1		1	1	1	1				1					2A	1
NORTH BEACH *	2.52	25	75		3350A	1			5	2		1	1	1	1				4					2A	1
OCEAN VIEW	10.28	100			1690C	1	1	1			2A	1	1	1	1				2					4A	
PORTOLA	4.96	100			17418B	1	4	1	24		2BC	1	1	1	1				2	1			4	4A	
PRESIDIO HEIGHTS	0.43		100		378B									1	1				1					1B	1
RICHMONO and ANNEX	1.66			100	560C	1								1	1				1					7A	
ROCHAMBEAU	0.83			100	1590B	1	1	1						1	1				1					1A	1
WEST PORTAL	1.89	100												1	1	1								1A	
APTOS	5.02					UNDER CONSTRUCTION																			
JAMES LICK	1.46						"	"	"																
POTRERO HILL	9.55						"	"	"																
ST. MARY'S	9.59						"	"	"																
TOTAL	127.45				56820	5	23	11	72		13	18	15	27	25	1	6	2	34	2	5	5	27	50	13

Operated from 3 to 5 on school days, and from 10 to 5 on non-school days, with the exception of Sundays.

Former church converted into a community center. It contains a basketball court, a club room, library, kitchen, smoking room, general gymnasium, showers and lavatories.

Located at Mather, Tuolumne County, California, in High Sierra at elevation of 4500 feet. Equipped with Lodge, cabins, modern sanitation, electricity for heat, light and power.

LEGEND:	BUILDINGS	DIAMONOS	TENNIS COURTS	COURTS	SMALL CHILDREN'S AREA	SWIMMING-POOLS
	A - Reinforced Concrete B - Wood and Stucco C - Wood Frame	A - Steel Backstops B - Wood Backstops C - Bleachers	A - Double B - Single	All courts are paved with a 3-inch concrete mat cover with 1 inch of asphalt.	Standard equipment consists of sand-box, baby-swings, regular swings, triple slide, small slide, traveling rings and teeters.	Open-air, unheated, swimming-pools 30 ft. x 90 ft., depth 3 ft. x 9 ft. equipped with recirculation plants, vacuum cleaners and chlorinators.

WRITTEN AND COMPILED BY
GILBERT G. WEIGLE

PRESS OF
PERNAU-WALSH PRINTING CO.
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF.

